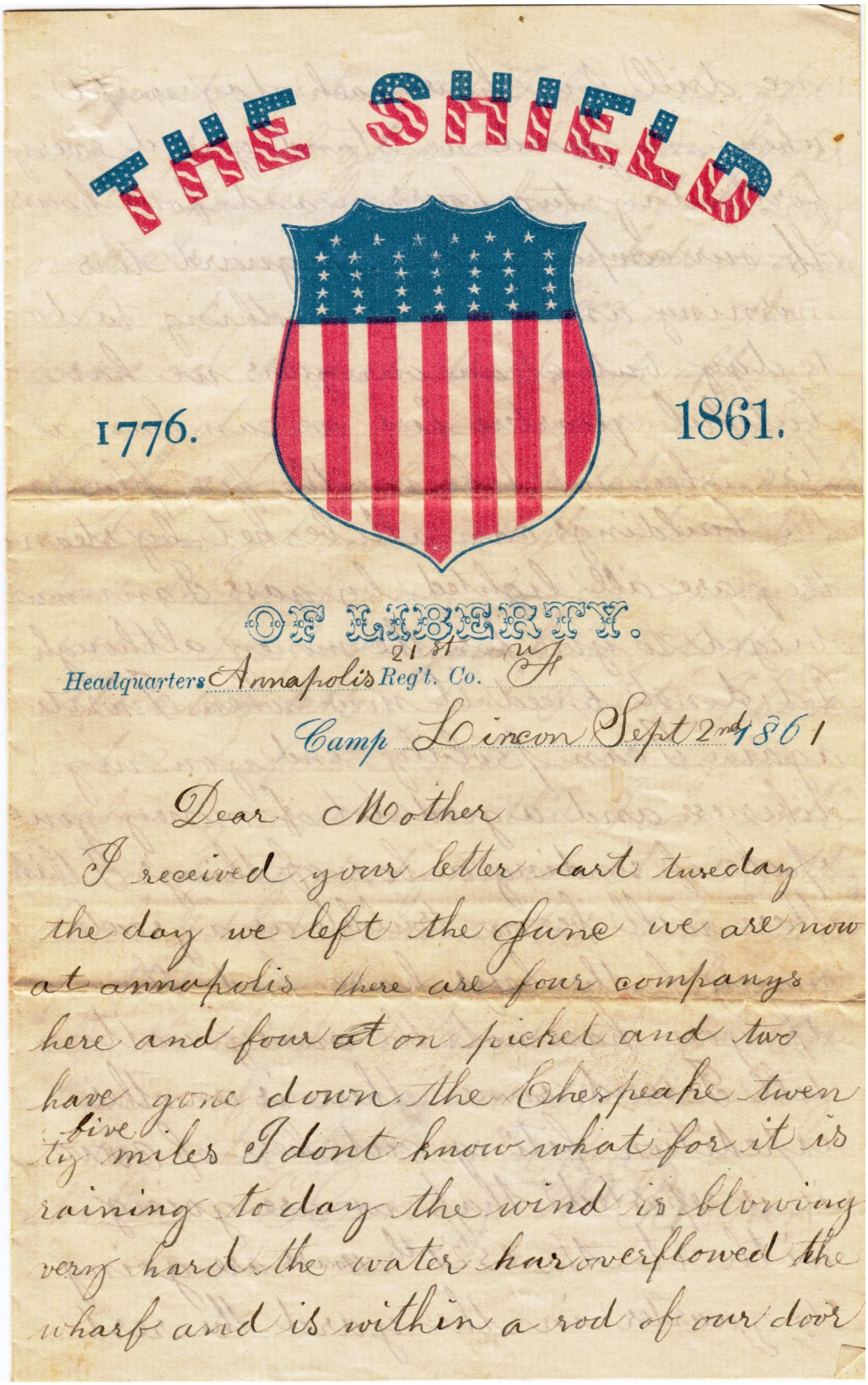
The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown



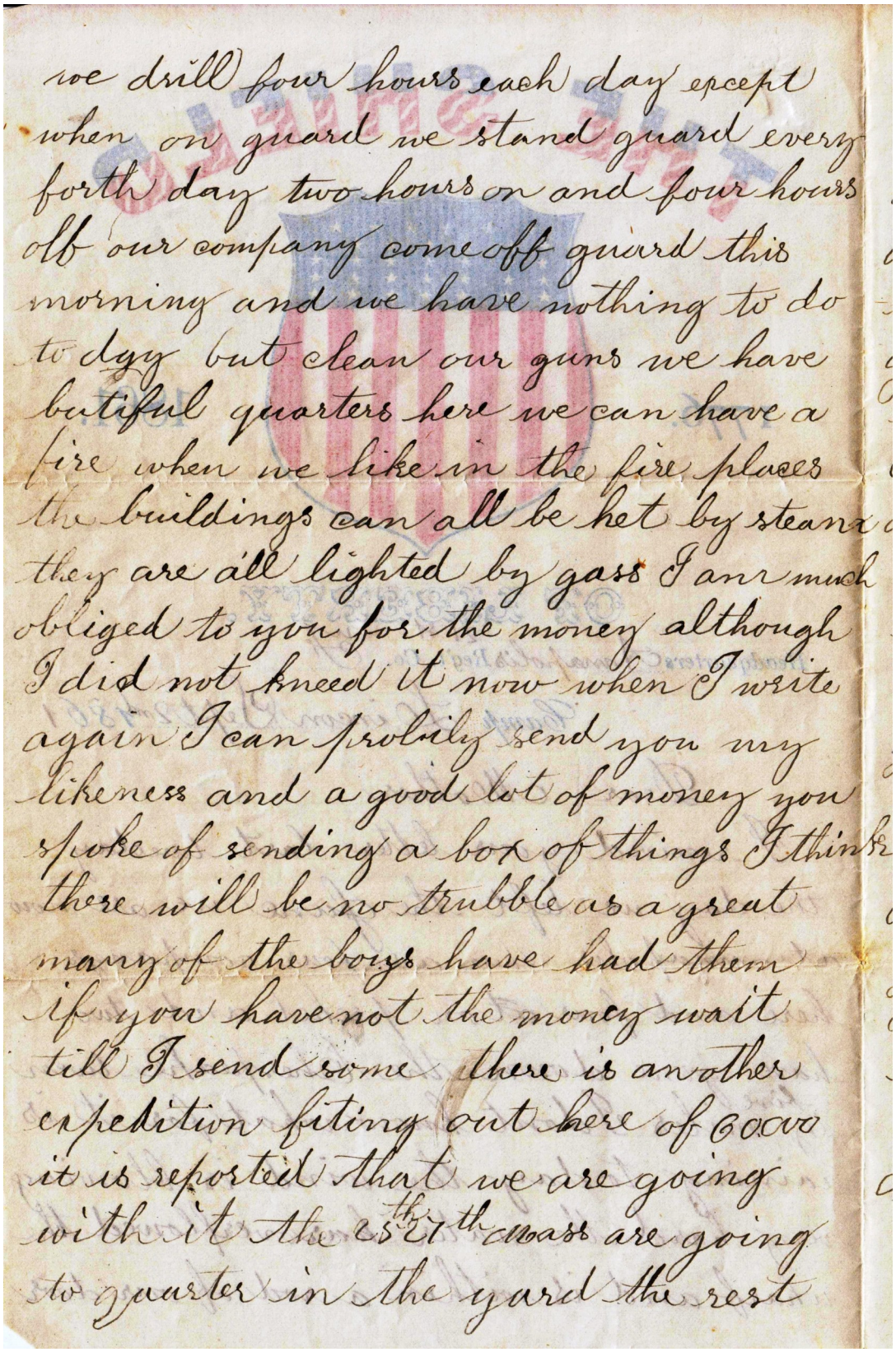
Headquarters Annapolis 21st Reg't. Co. W

Camp Lincon Sept 2nd 1861

Dear Mother

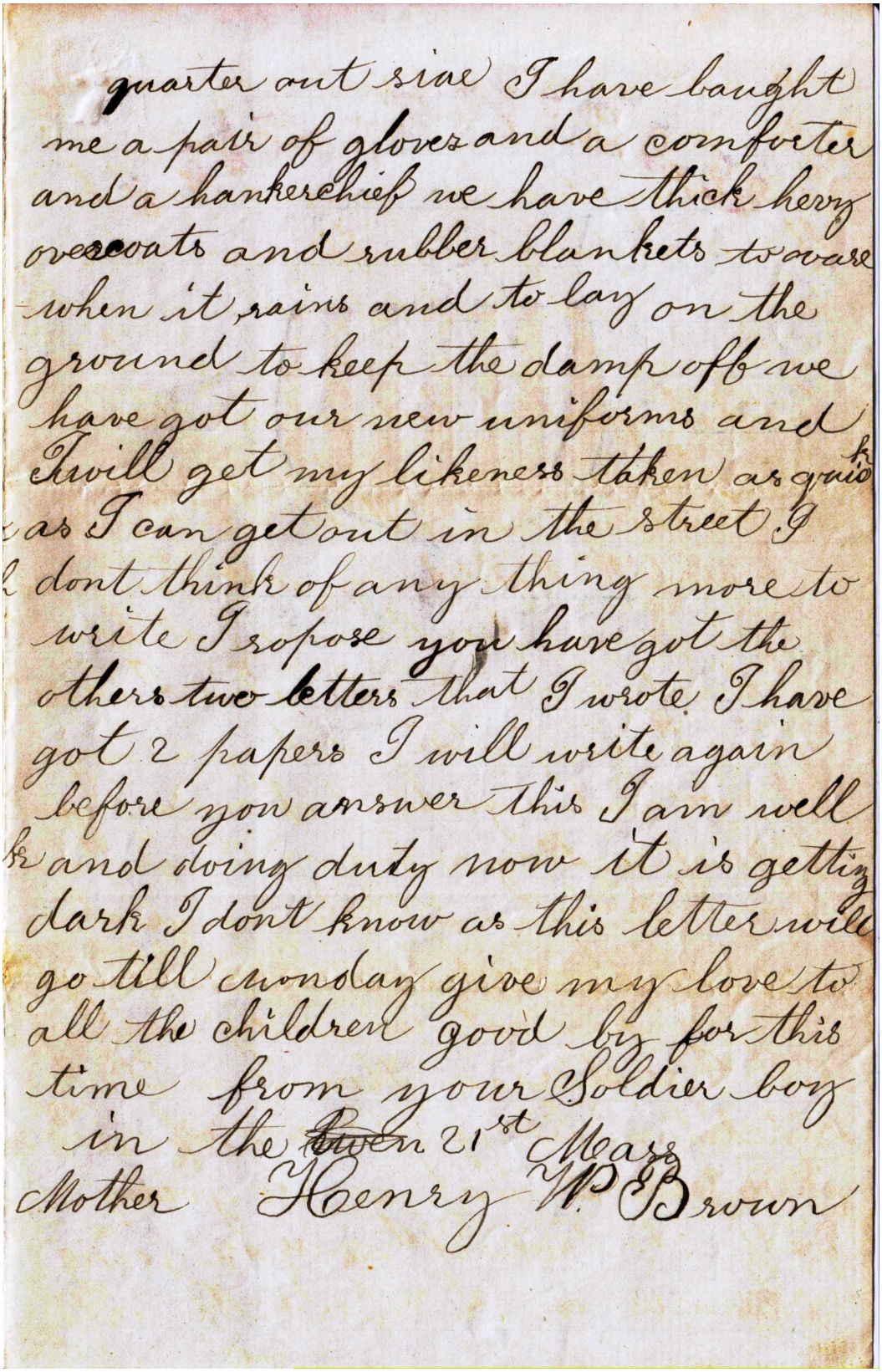
I received your letter last tuesday the day we left the June we are now at annapolis there are four companys here and four at on picket and two have gone down the Cherspeake twen ty five miles I dont know what for it is raining to day the wind is blowing very hard the water har overflowed the wharf and is within a rod of our door

September 2, 1861 (1861.09.02) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



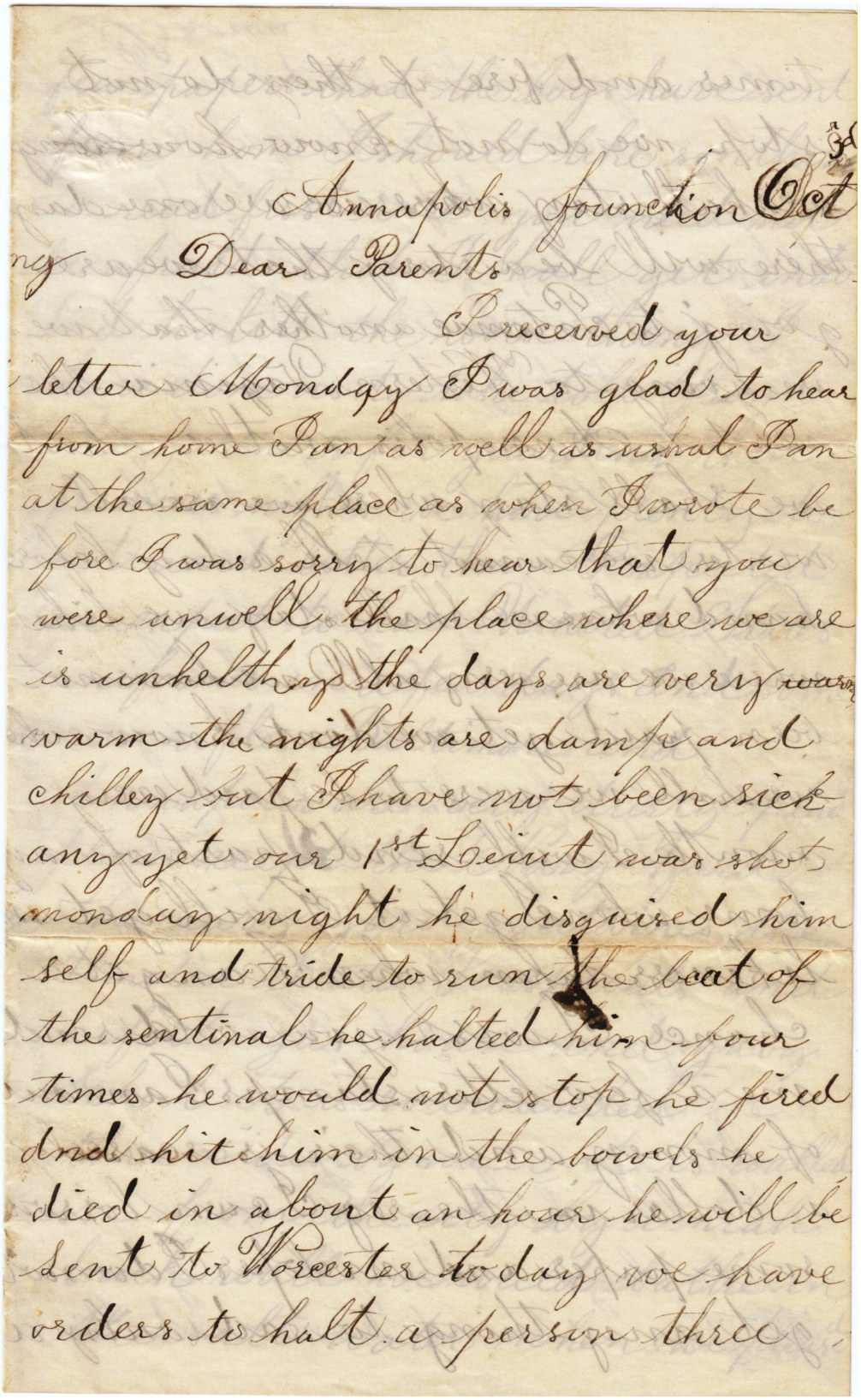
we drill four hours each day except
when on guard we stand guard every
forth day two hours on and four hours
off our company come off guard this
morning and we have nothing to do
to dayy but clean our guns we have
butiful quarters here we can have a
fire when we like in the fire places
the buildings can all be het by steam
they are all lighted by gass I am much
obliged to you for the money although
I did not kneed it now when I write
again I can probily send you my
likeness and a good lot of money you
spoke of sending a box of things I think
there will be no trubble as a great
many of the boys have had them
if you have not the money wait
till I send some there is another
expedition fiting out here of 60000
it is reported that we are going
with it the 53rd 21st mass are going
to quarter in the yard the rest

September 2, 1862 (1861.09.02) Page 2, Annapolis, MD



quarter out side I have baught
me a pair of gloves and a comforter
and a hankerchief we have thick heavy
overcoats and rubber blankets to ware
when it rains and to lay on the
ground to keep the damp off we
have got our new uniforms and
I will get my likeness taken as quick
as I can get out in the street I
dont think of any thing more to
write I repose you have got the
others two letters that I wrote I have
got 2 papers I will write again
before you answer this I am well
and doing duty now it is getting
dark I dont know as this letter will
go till monday give my love to
all the children good by for this
time from your Soldier boy
in the ~~Town~~ 21st Mass
Mother Henry W. B Brown

September 2, 1861 (1861.09.02) Page 3, Annapolis, MD

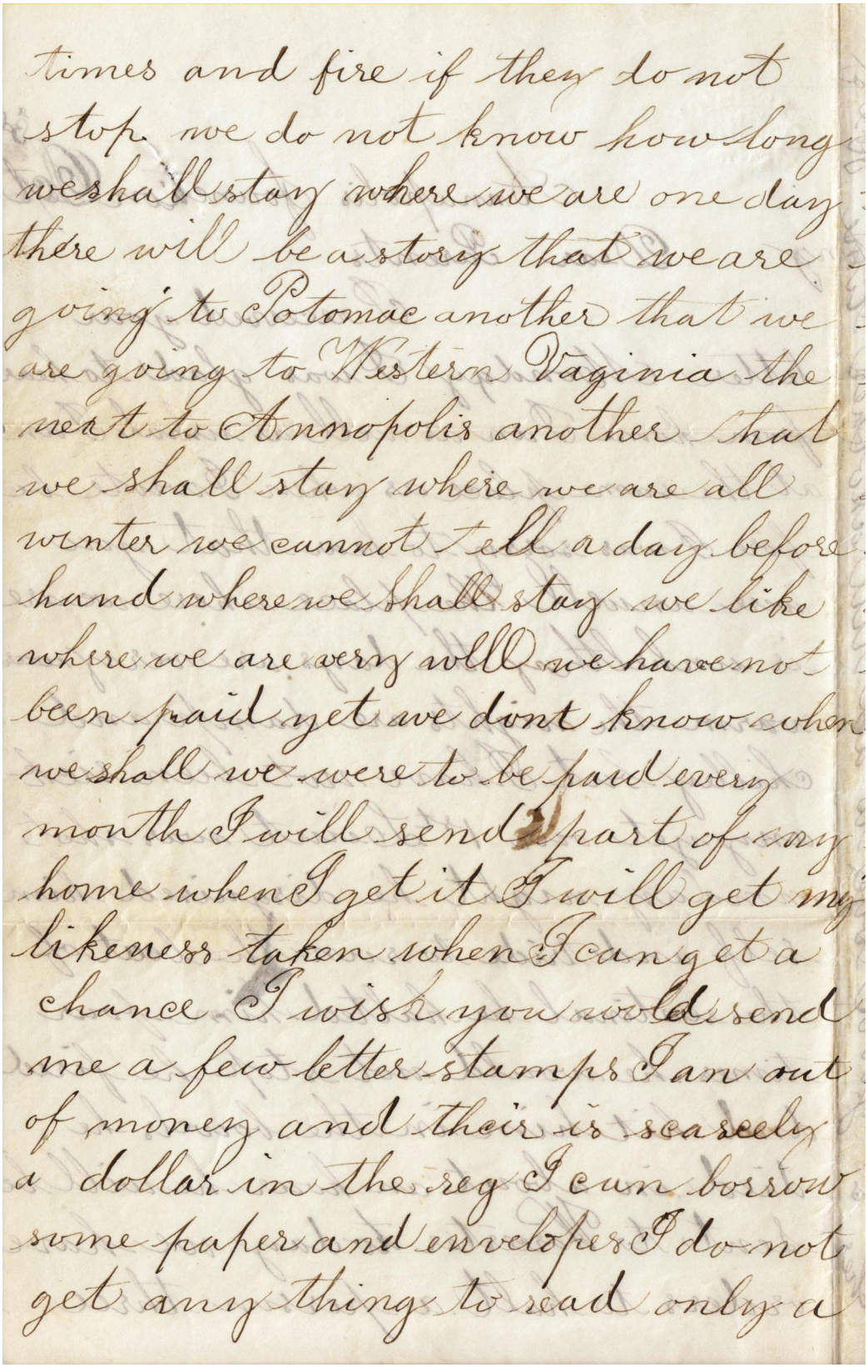


Annapolis Jounction Oct 3d

Dear Parents

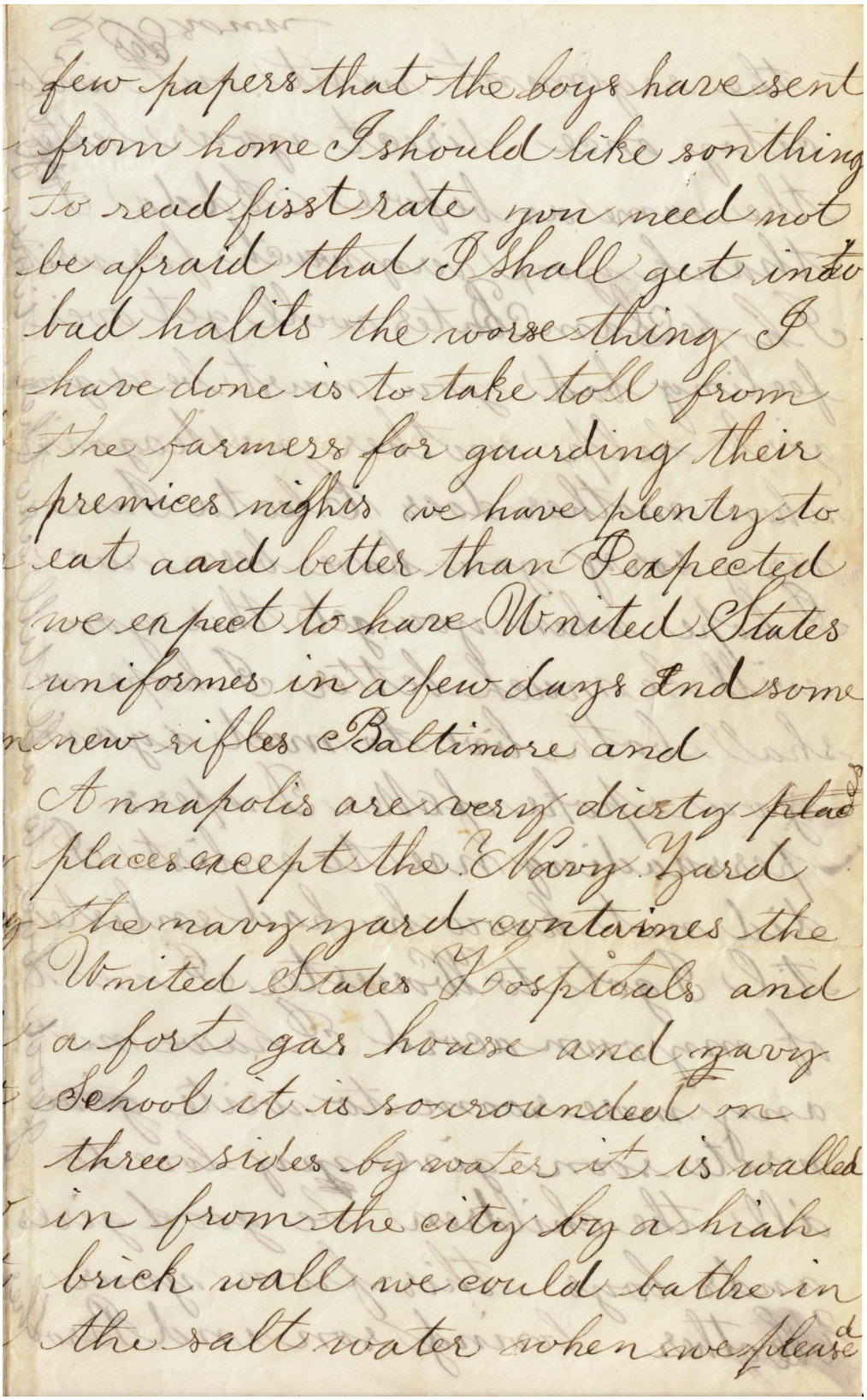
I received your letter Mondgy I was glad to hear from home I am as well as usual I am at the same place as when I wrote before I was sorry to hear that you were unwell the place where we are is unhelthy the days are very warm warm the nights are damp and chilley but I have not been sick any yet our 1st Leiut was shot monday night he disguised himself and tride to run the boat of the sentinal he halted him four times he would not stop he fired and hit him in the bowels he died in about an hour he will be sent to Worcester to day we have orders to halt a person three

October 3, 1861 (1861.10.03) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



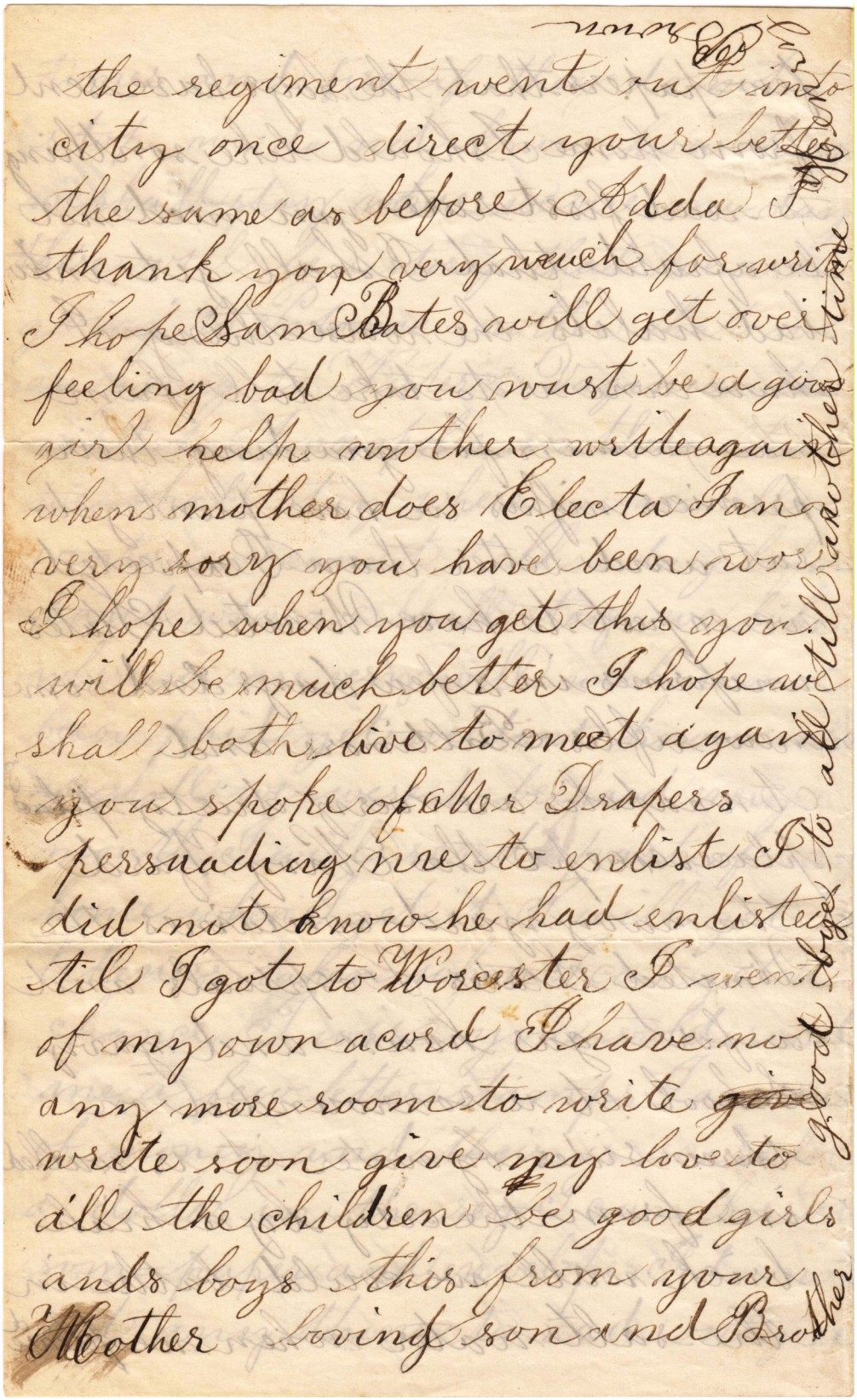
times and fire if they do not
stop we do not know how long
we shall stay where we are one day
there will be a story that we are
going to Potomac another that we
are going to Western Vaginia the
next to Annapolis another that
we shall stay where we are all
winter we cannot tell a day before
hand where we shall stay we like
where we are very well we have not
been paid yet we dont know when
we shall we were to be paid every
month I will send a part of my
home when I get it I will get my
likeness taken when I can get a
chance I wish you would send
me a few letter stamps I am out
of money and their is scarcely
a dollar in the reg I can borrow
some paper and envelopes I do not
get any thing to read only a

October 3, 1861 (1861.10.03) Page 2, Annapolis, MD



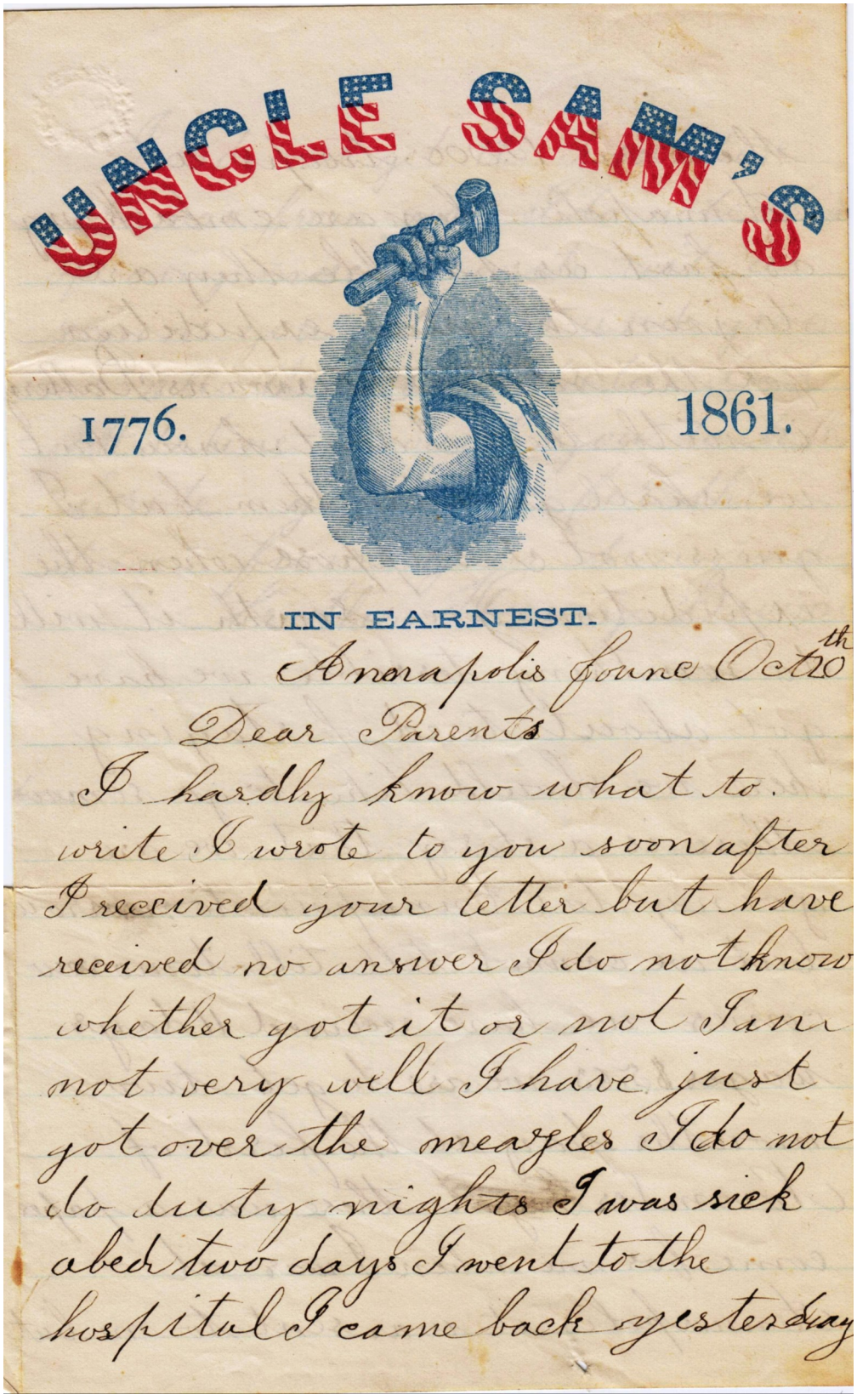
few papers that the boys have sent
from home I should like sonthing
to read fisst rate you need not
be afraid that I shall get into
bad habits the worse thing I
have done is to take toll from
the farmers for guarding their
premices nights we have plenty to
eat aand better than I expected
we expect to have United States
uniformes in a few days and some
new rifles Baltimore and
Annapolis are very dirty plac
places except the Navy Yard
the navy yard contaimes the
United States Hospitals and
a fort gas house and navy
School it is sorrounded on
three sides by water it is walled
in from the city by a hiah
brick wall we could bathe in
the salt water when we please

October 3, 1861 (1861.10.03) Page 3, Annapolis, MD



the regiment went out into
city once direct your letter
the same as before Adda I
thank you very much for writing
I hope Sam Bates will get over
feeling bad you must be a good
girl help mother write again
when mother does Electa I am
very sorry you have been sick
I hope when you get this you
will be much better I hope we
shall both live to meet again
you spoke of after Drapers
persuading me to enlist I
did not know he had enlisted
til I got to Worcester I went
of my own acord I have not
any more room to write ~~give~~
write soon give my love to
all the children be good girls
and boys this from your
Mother loving son and Brother

October 3, 1861 (1861.10.03) Page 4, Annapolis, MD


UNCLE SAM'S

1776. 1861.

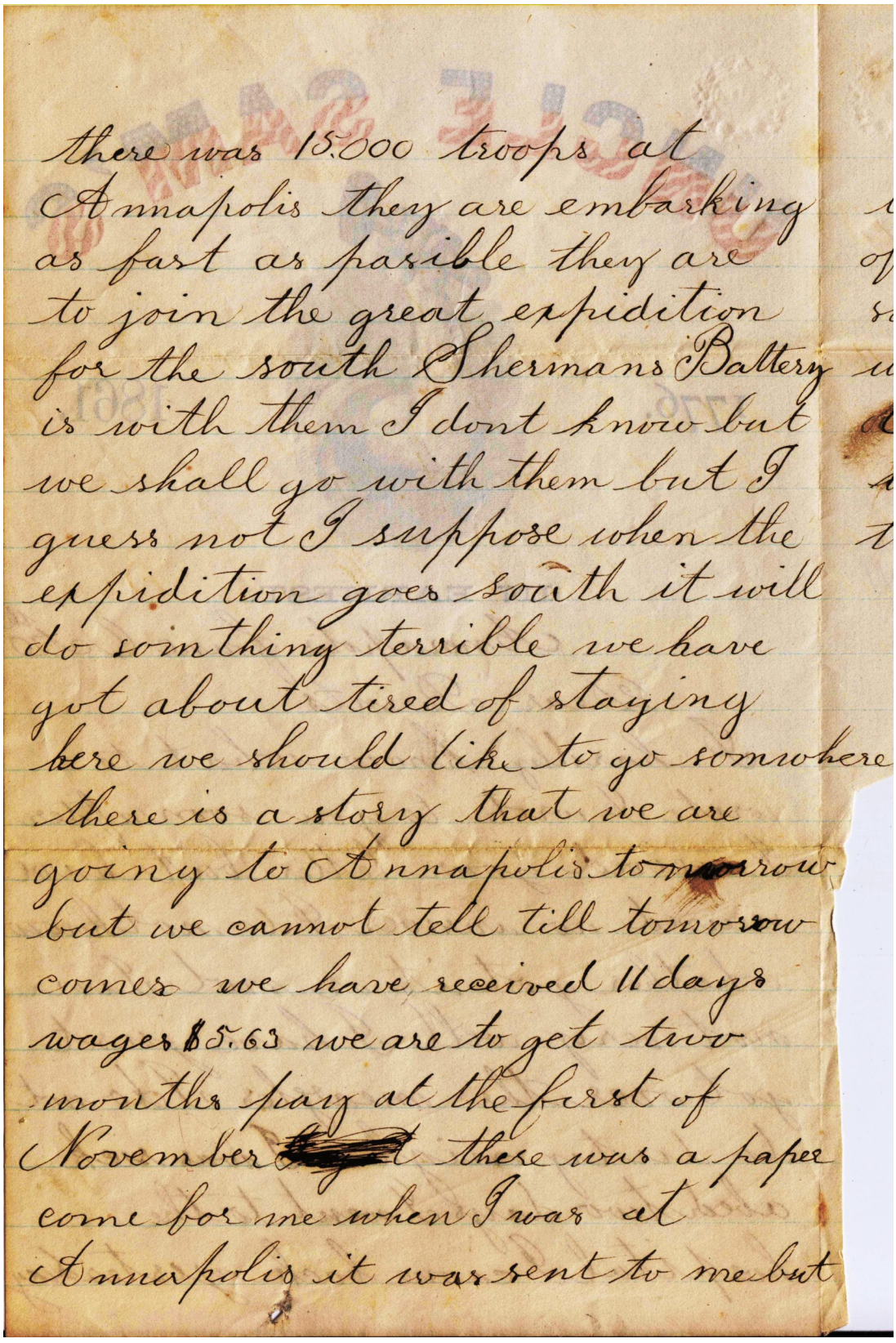
IN EARNEST.

Annapolis Joune Oct 20th

Dear Parents

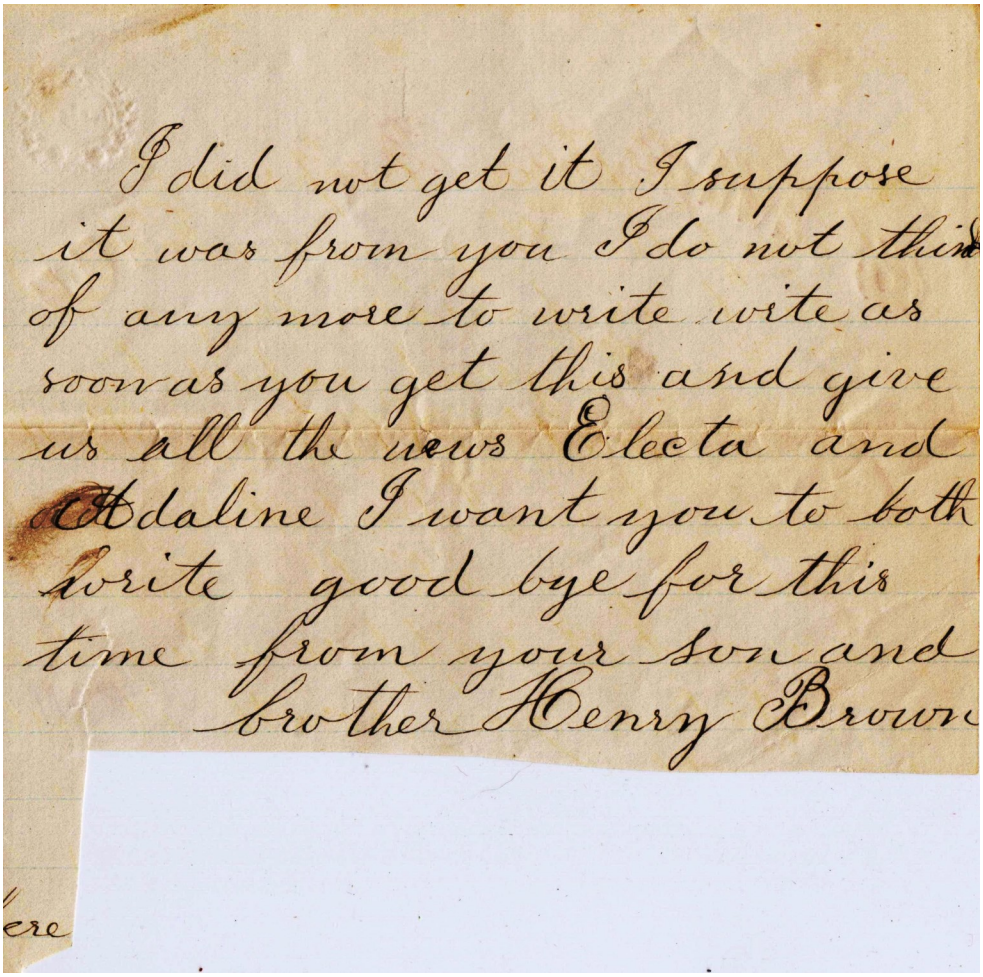
I hardly know what to write I wrote to you soon after I received your letter but have received no answer I do not know whether got it or not I am not very well I have just got over the meazles I do not do duty nights I was sick abed two days I went to the hospital I came back yesterday

October 20, 1861 (1861.10.20) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



there was 15.000 troops at
Annapolis they are embarking
as fast as pasible they are
to join the great expidition
for the south Shermans Battery
is with them I dont know but
we shall go with them but I
guess not I suppose when the
expidition goes south it will
do sointhing terrible we have
got about tired of staying
here we should like to go somwhere
there is a story that we are
going to Annapolis tomorrow
but we cannot tell till tomorrow
comes we have received 11 days
wages $5.63 we are to get two
months pay at the first of
November there was a paper
come for me when I was at
Annapolis it was sent to me but

October 20, 1861 (1861.10.20) Page 2, Annapolis, MD

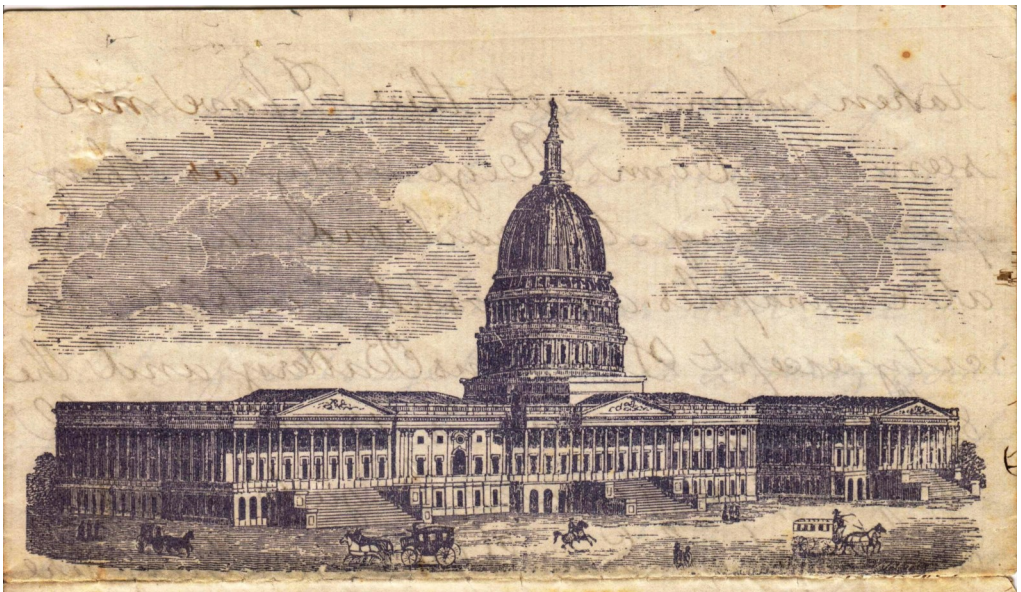


I did not get it I suppose
it was from you I do not think
of any more to write write as
soon as you get this and give
us all the news Electa and
Adaline I want you to both
write good bye for this
time from your son and
brother Henry Brown

ere

October 20, 1861 (1861.10.20) Page 3, Annapolis, MD

The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown



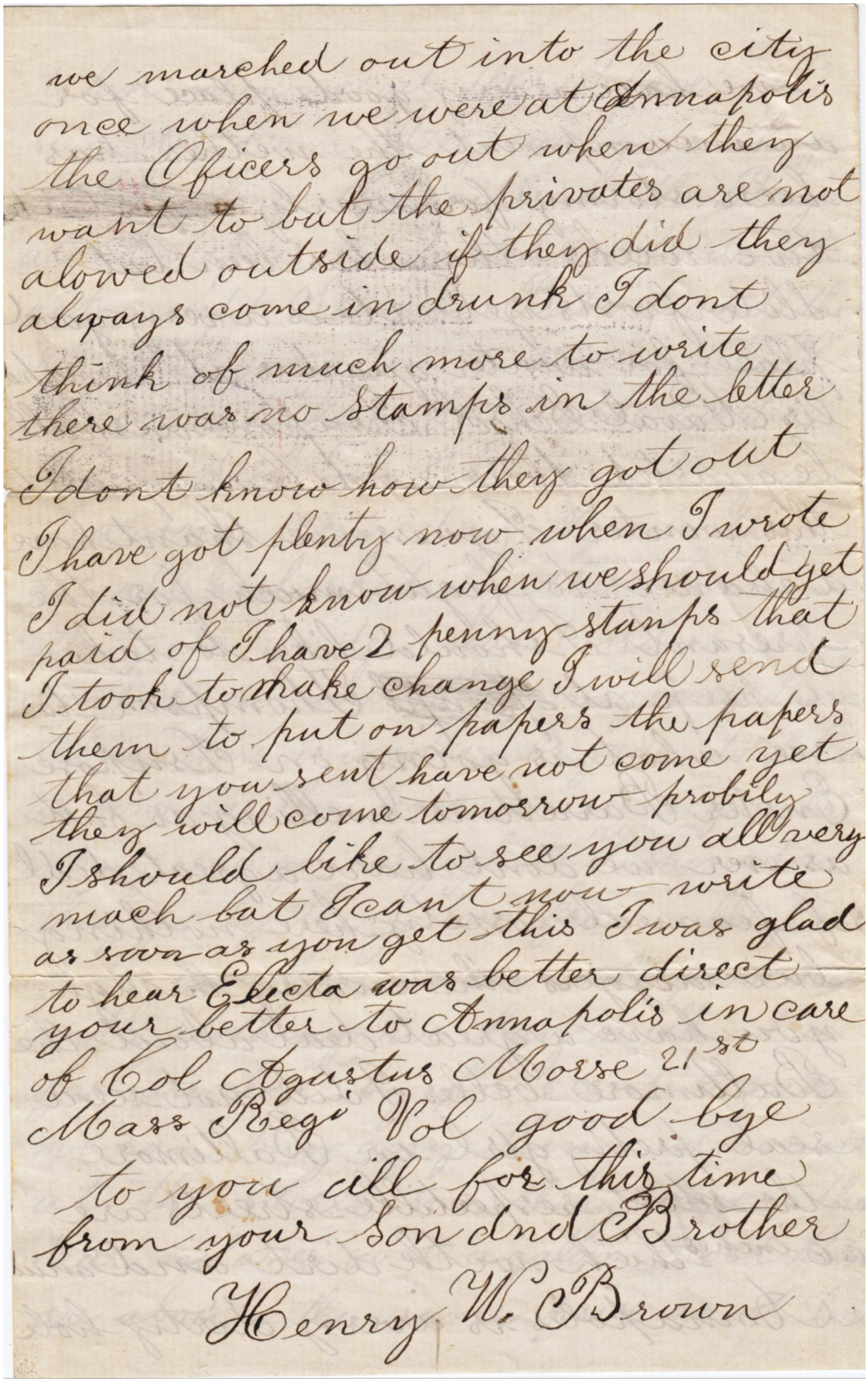
THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON.

Headquarters Annapolis 21st Reg't. Co. F

Camp Annapolis June. Oct 25d 1861

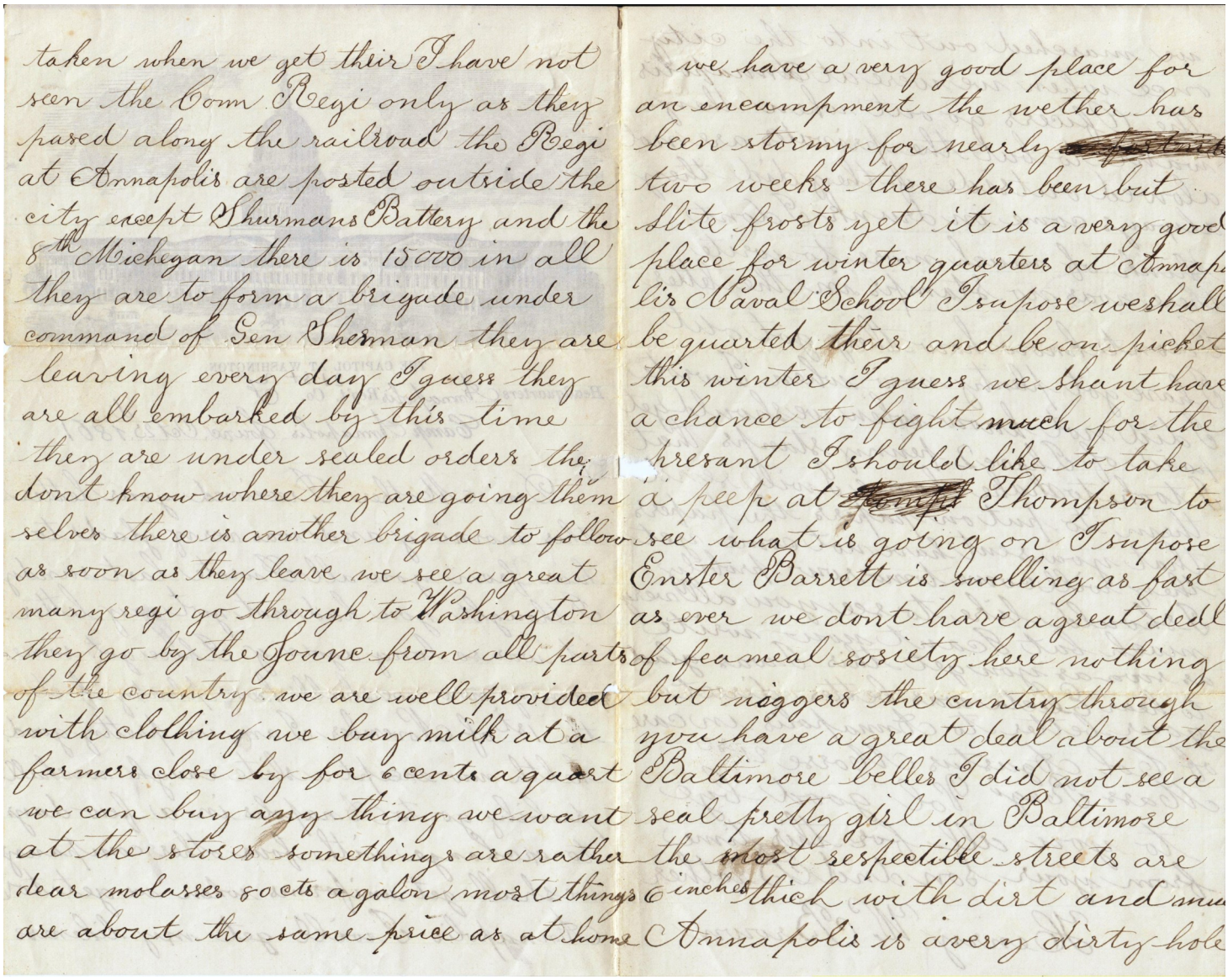
Dear Mother Preceived your letter this morning and was very glad to hear from you all I wrote last sundy I thought you had not got my letter it was so long agoing I have got some money now we shall have plenty of it the 1st of November I am in pretty good helth now except a slite caugh we shall probily go to Annapolis in a few days to exchange with four other company we shall get uniforms when we get to Annapolis I will get my likeness

October 25, 1861 (1861.10.25) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



we marched out into the city
once when we were at Annapolis
the Officers go out when they
want to but the privates are not
alowed outside if they did they
always come in drunk I dont
think of much more to write
there was no Stamps in the letter
I dont know how they got out
I have got plenty now when I wrote
I did not know when we should get
paid of I have 2 penny stamps that
I took to make change I will send
them to put on papers the papers
that you sent have not come yet
they will come tomorrow probly
I should like to see you all very
much but I cant you write
as soon as you get this I was glad
to hear Electa was better direct
your letter to Annapolis in care
of Col Agustus Morse 21st
Mass Regt Vol good bye
to you all for this time
from your Son and Brother
Henry W. Brown

October 25, 1861 (1861.10.25) Page 4, Annapolis, MD



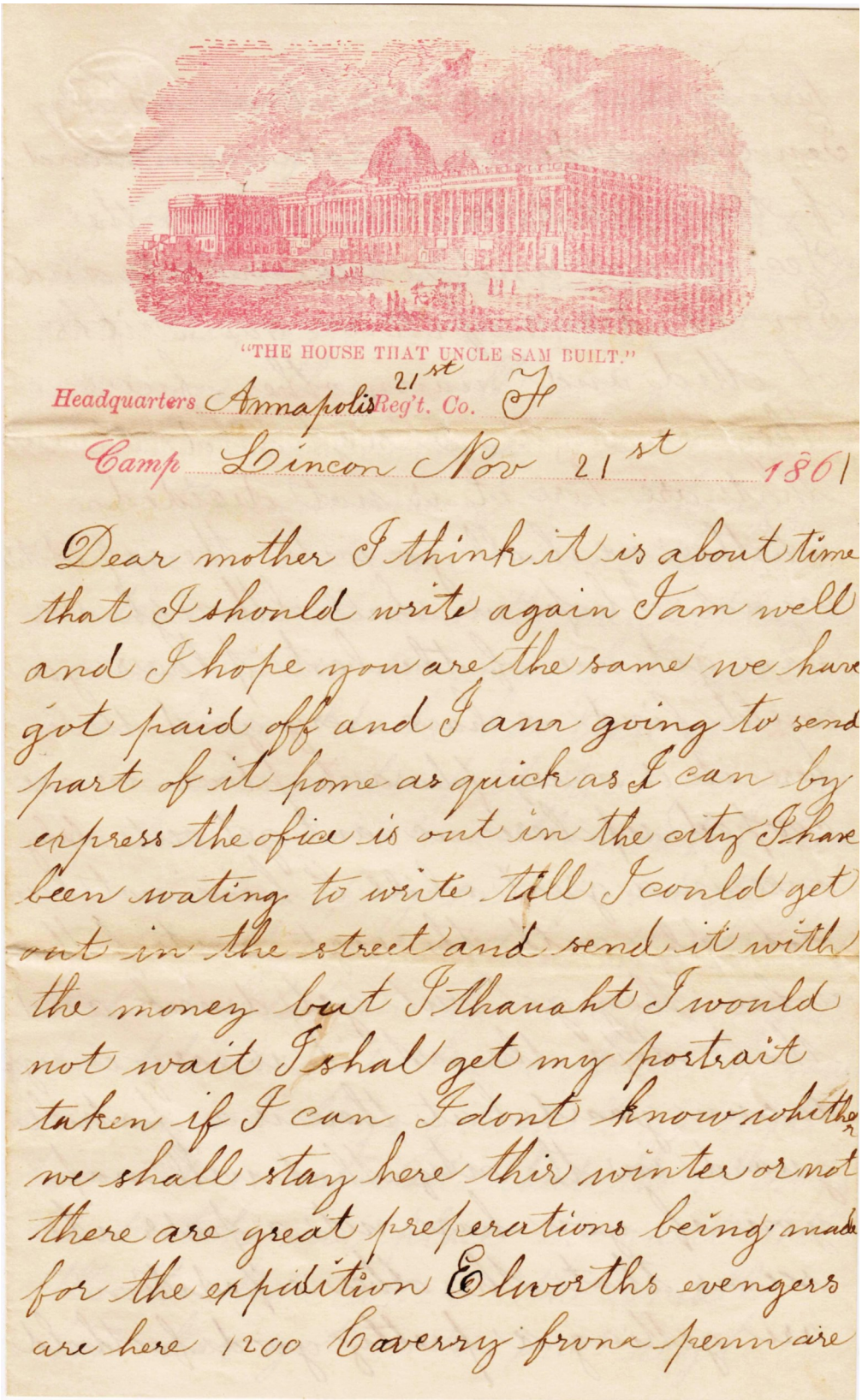
taken when we get their I have not seen the Com Regi only as they pased along the railroad the Regi at Annapolis are posted outside the city except Shurmans Battery and the 8th Michegan there is 15000 in all they are to form a brigade under command of Gen Sherman they are leaving every day I guess they are all embarked by this time they are under sealed orders the dont know where they are going them selves there is another brigade to follow as soon as they leave we see a great many regi go through to Washington they go by the Soune from all parts of the country we are well provided with clothing we buy milk at a farmers close by for 6 cents a quart we can buy any thing we want at the stores somethings are rather dear molasses 80 cts a galon most things are about the same price as at home we have a very good place for an encampment the wether has been stormy for nearly [illegible] two weeks there has been but slite frosts yet it is a very good place for winter quarters at Annapolis Naval School I supose we shall be quarted their and be on picket this winter I guess we shant have a chance to fight much for the present I should like to take a peep at [illegible] Thompson to see what is going on I supose Enster Barrett is swelling as fast as ever we dont have a great deal of fea meal sosiety here nothing but niggers the cuntry through you have a great deal about the Baltimore belles I did not see a real pretty girl in Baltimore the most respectible streets are 6 inches thick with dirt and mud Annapolis is a very dirty hole

October 25, 1861 (1861.10.25) Pages 2 and 3, Annapolis, MD

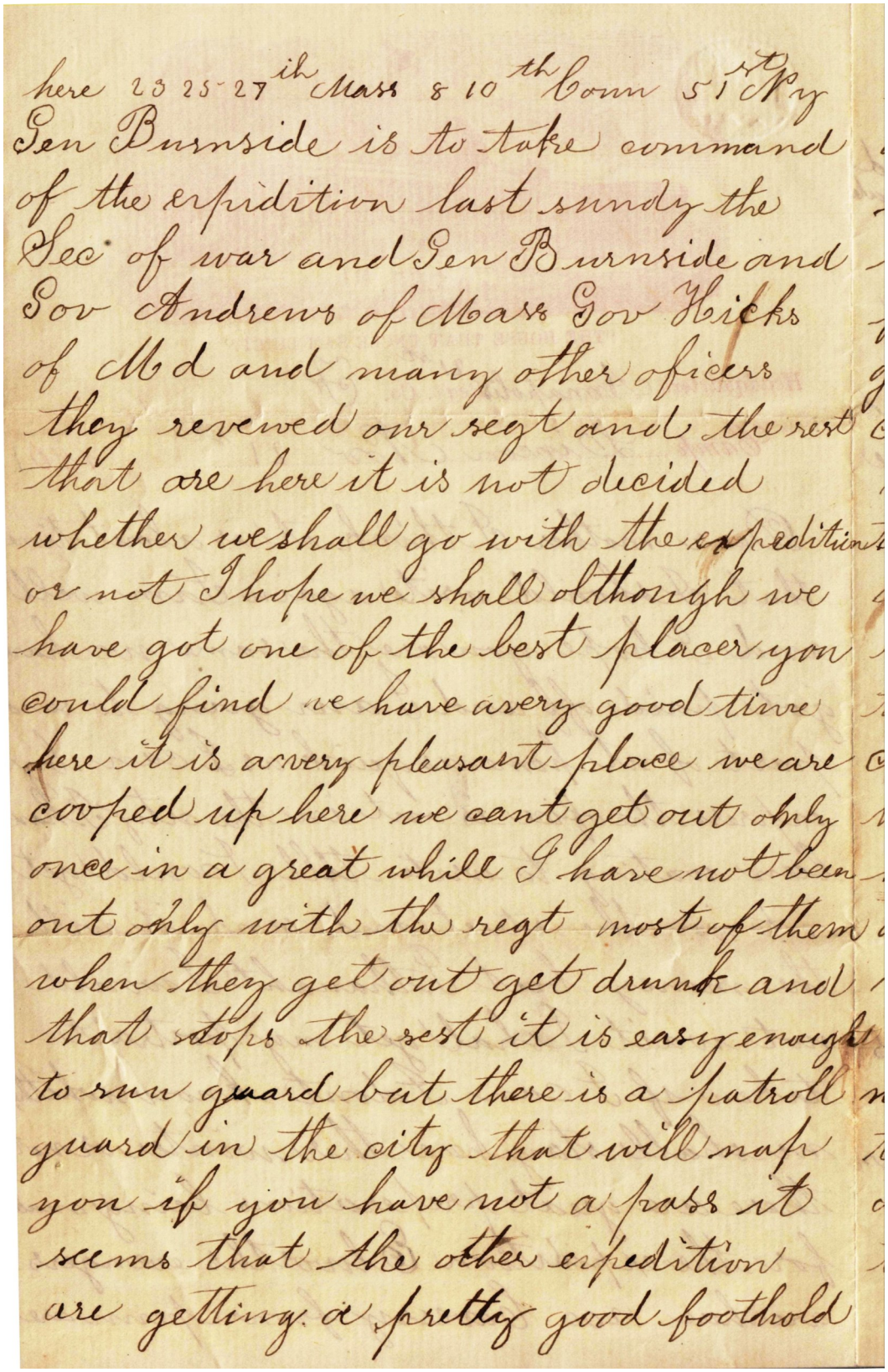


October 25, 1861 (1861.10.24) Envelope, Annapolis, MD

The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown

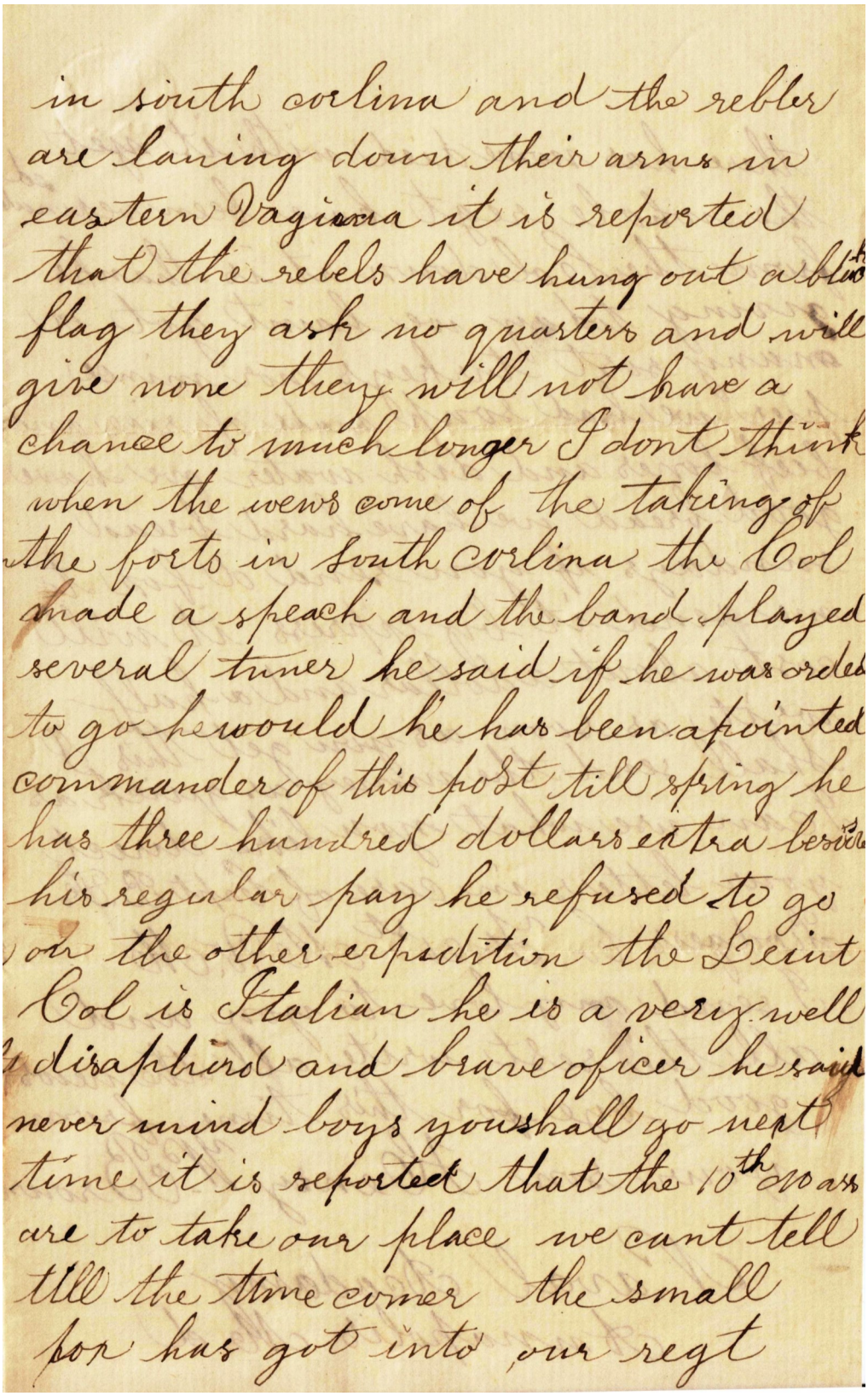


November 21, 1861 (1861.11.21) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



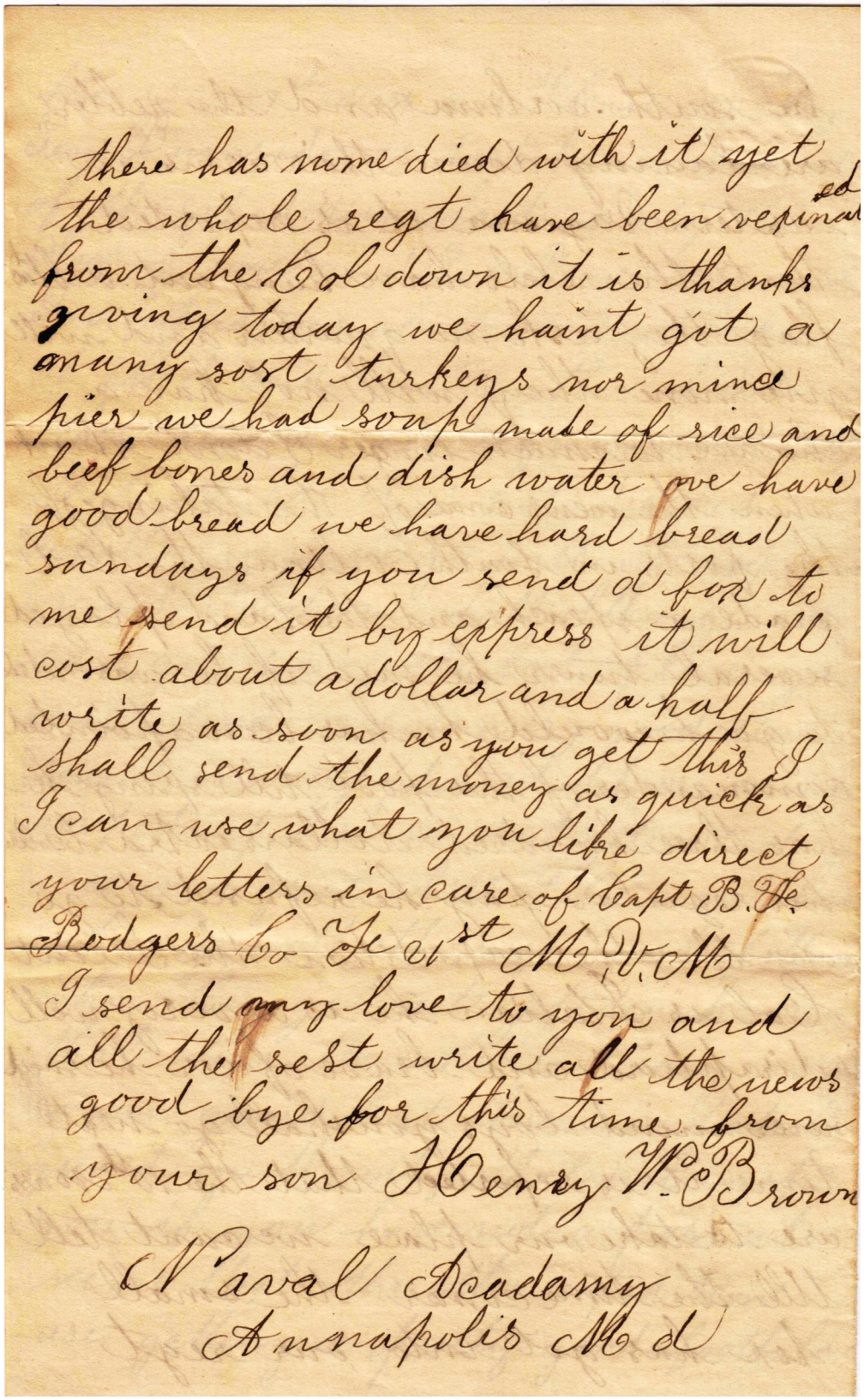
here 23 25 27th Mass & 10th Conn 5 1 Pa
Gen Burnside is to take command
of the expidition last sunday the
Sec of war and Gen Burnside and
Gov Andrews of Mass Gov Hicks
of Md and many other officers
they revewed our regt and the rest
that are here it is not decided
whether we shall go with the expedition
or not I hope we shall although we
have got one of the best places you
could find we have a very good time
here it is a very pleasant place we are
cooped up here we cant get out only
once in a great while I have not been
out only with the regt most of them
when they get out get drunk and
that stops the rest it is easy enough
to run guard but there is a patroll
guard in the city that will nab
you if you have not a pass it
seems that the other expedition
are getting a pretty good foothold

November 21, 1861 (1861.11.21) Page 2, Annapolis, MD



in south corlina and the rebles
are laying down their arms in
eastern Vagiana it is reported
that the rebels have hung out a blue
flag they ask no quarters and will
give none they will not have a
chance to much longer I dont think
when the news come of the taking of
the forts in South Corlina the Col
made a speach and the band played
several tuner he said if he was order
to go he would he has been apointed
commander of this post till spring he
has three hundred dollars extra beside
his regular pay he refused to go
on the other expedition the Leint
Col is Italian he is a very well
disaplined and brave oficer he said
never mind boys youshall go next
time it is reported that the 10th Mass
are to take our place we cant tell
till the time comes the small
pox has got into our regt

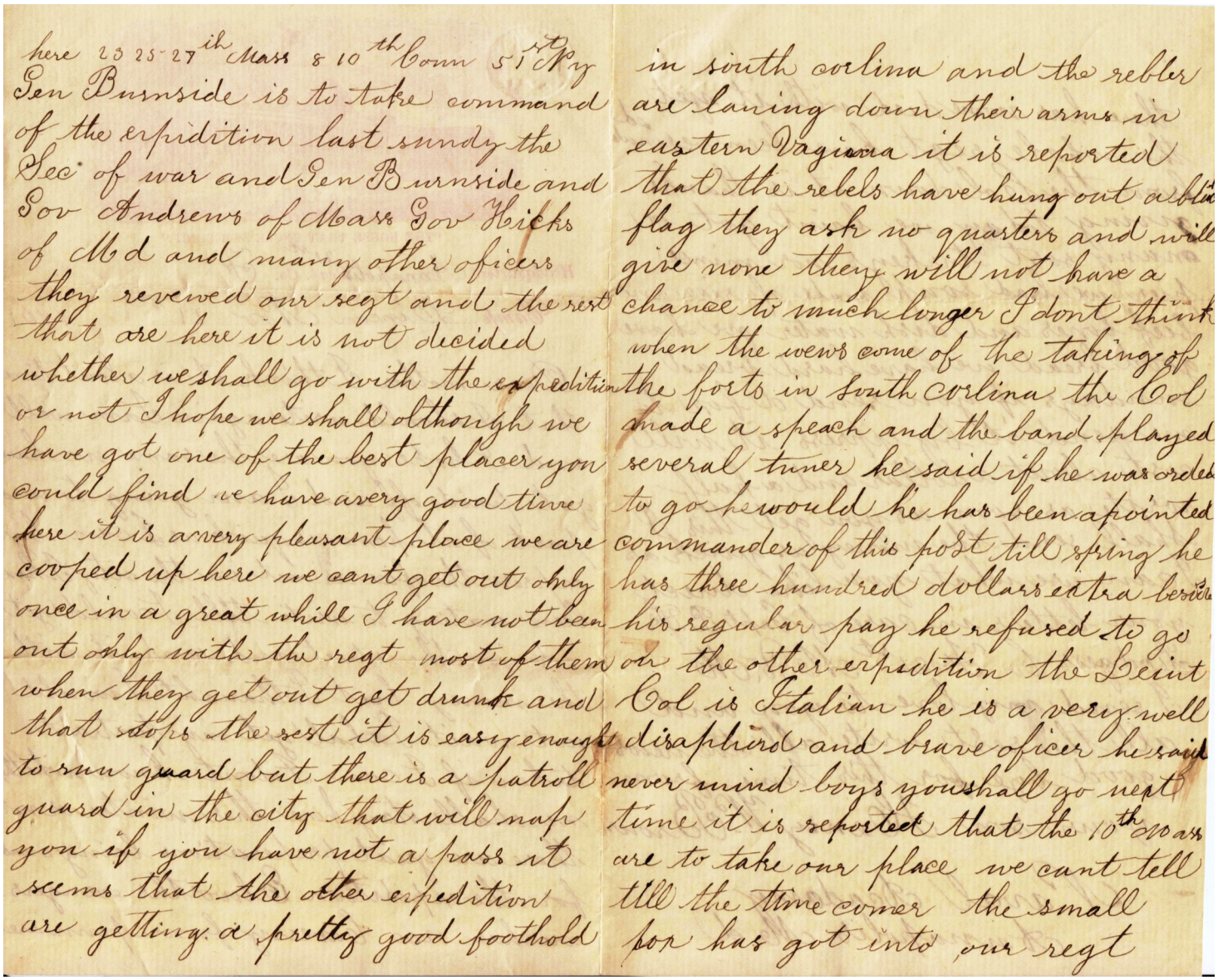
November 21, 1861 (1861.11.21) Page 3, Annapolis, MD



there has nome died with it yet
the whole regt have been sepinated
from the Col down it is thanks
giving today we haint got a
anany sort turkeys nor mince
pier we had soup made of rice and
beef bones and dish water ove have
good bread we have hard bread
sundays if you send d for to
me send it by express it will
cost about a dollar and a half
write as soon as you get this I
shall send the money as quick as
I can use what you like direct
your letters in care of Capt B. F.
Rodgers Co F 1st M. V. M
I send any love to you and
all the rest write all the news
good bye for this time from
your son Henry W. Brown

Naval Academy
Annapolis Md

November 21, 1861 (1861.11.21) Page 4, Annapolis, MD



here 23 25 27th Mass & 10th Conn 5th Pa
Gen Burnside is to take command
of the expidition last sunday the
Sec of war and Gen Burnside and
Gov Andrews of Mass Gov Hicks
of Md and many other oficers
they revewed our regt and the rest
that are here it is not decided
whether we shall go with the expedition
or not I hope we shall although we
have got one of the best placer you
could find we have avery good time
here it is avery pleasant place we are
cooped up here we cant get out only
once in a great while I have not been
out only with the regt most of them
when they get out get drunk and
that stops the rest it is easy enough
to run guard but there is a patroll
guard in the city that will nap
you if you have not a pass it
seems that the other expedition
are getting a pretty good foothold
in south corlina and the rebles
are laying down their arms in
eastern Vagiana it is reported
that the rebels have hung out a white
flag they ask no quarters and will
give none they will not have a
chance to much longer I dont think
when the news come of the taking of
the forts in South Corlina the Col
made a speach and the band played
several tuner he said if he was ordered
to go he would he has been apointed
commander of this post till spring he
has three hundred dollars extra besides
his regular pay he refused to go
on the other expedition the Leiut
Col is Italian he is a very well
disaphined and brave oficer he said
never mind boys youshall go next
time it is reported that the 10th Mass
are to take our place we cant tell
till the time comer the small
pox has got into our regt

November 21, 1861 (1861.11.21) Pages 2 and 3, Annapolis, MD



November 11, 1861 (1861.11.21) Envelope, Annapolis, MD

The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown

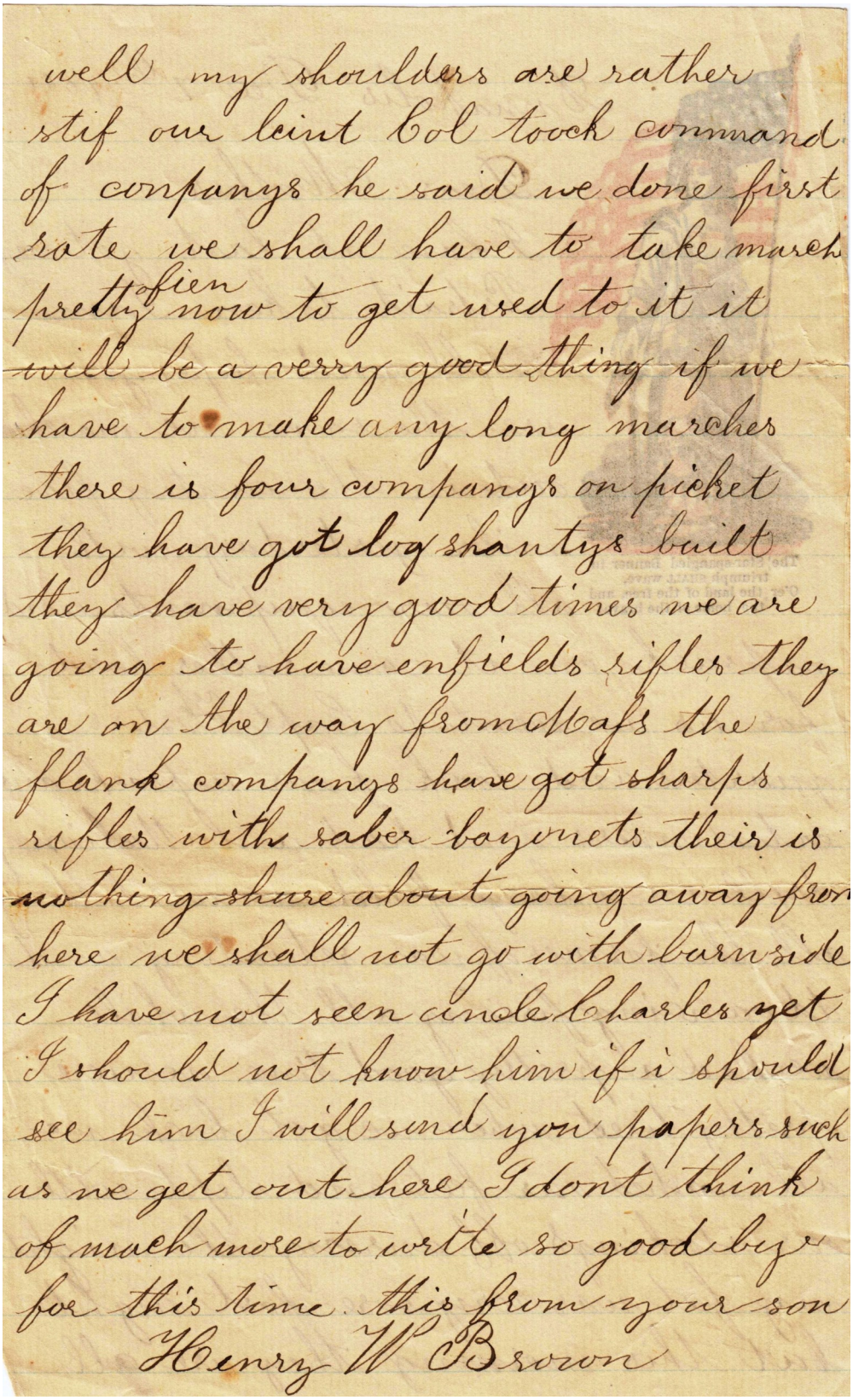


Annapolis Dec 7th 1861

Dear Mother

I have at last got my Portrait taken I am well and hope you are the same we marched out in the country five miles yesterday with all our equipments and napsack on it came rather hard for us we went to Capt Fosters quarters and took of our napsacks and eat dinners and had a battalion drill in a large field we went thro' all the formes of war retreating and advancing fireing all the while we had a pretty good time we were pretty tired when we got back we all washed our feet and slept with our stockings off during the night my feet was very sore last night but this morning they are all

December 7, 1861 (1861.12.07) Page 1, Annapolis, MD

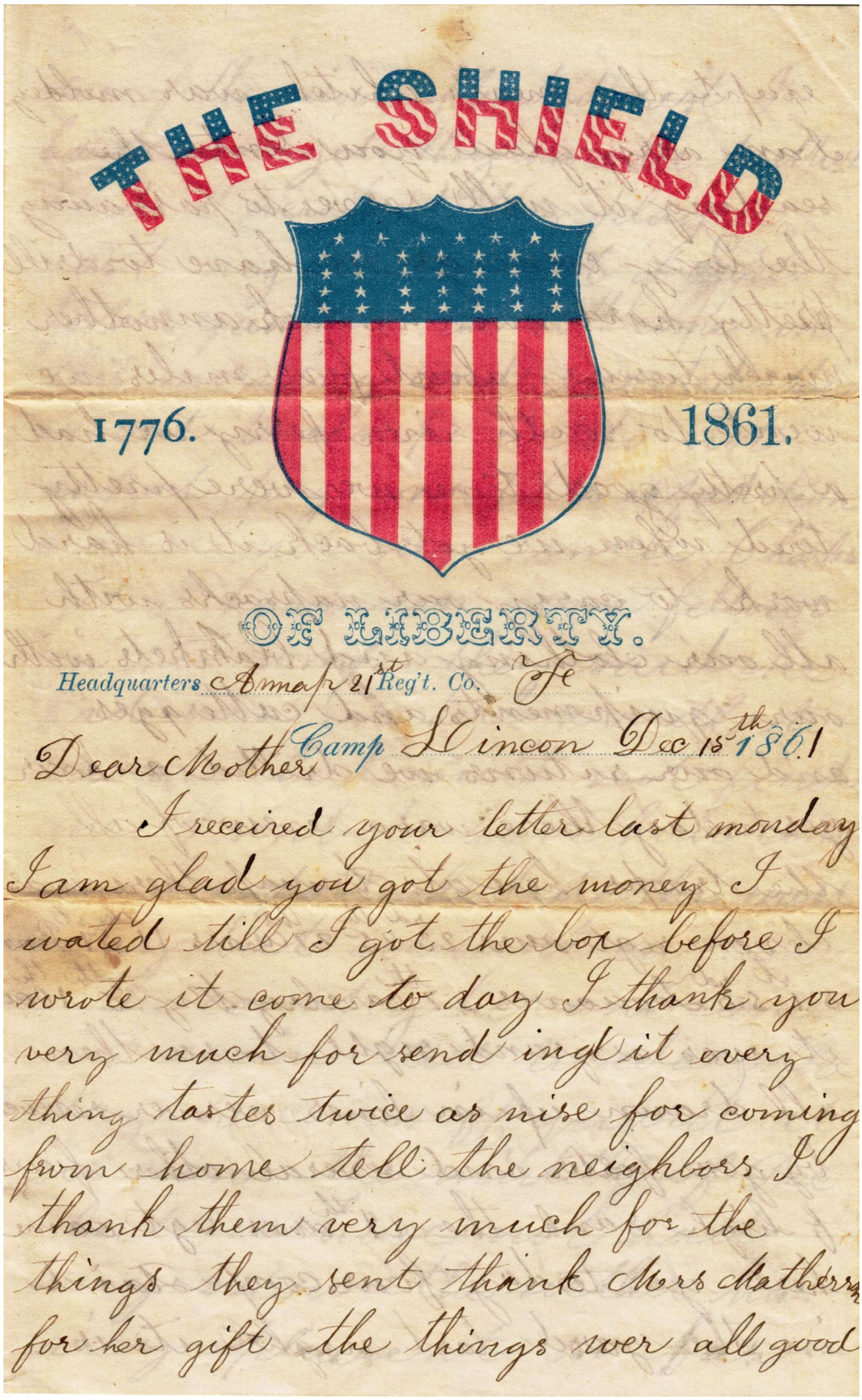


well my shoulders are rather
stif our leint Col took command
of companys he said we done first
rate we shall have to take march
pretty often now to get used to it it
will be a verry good thing if we
have to make any long marches
there is four companys on picket
they have got log shantys built
they have very good times we are
going to have enfields rifles they
are on the way from Mass the
flank companys have got sharps
rifles with saber bayonets their is
nothing shure about going away from
here we shall not go with burnside
I have not seen uncle Charles yet
I should not know him if i should
see him I will send you papers such
as we get out here I dont think
of much more to write so good bye
for this time this from your son
Henry W Brown

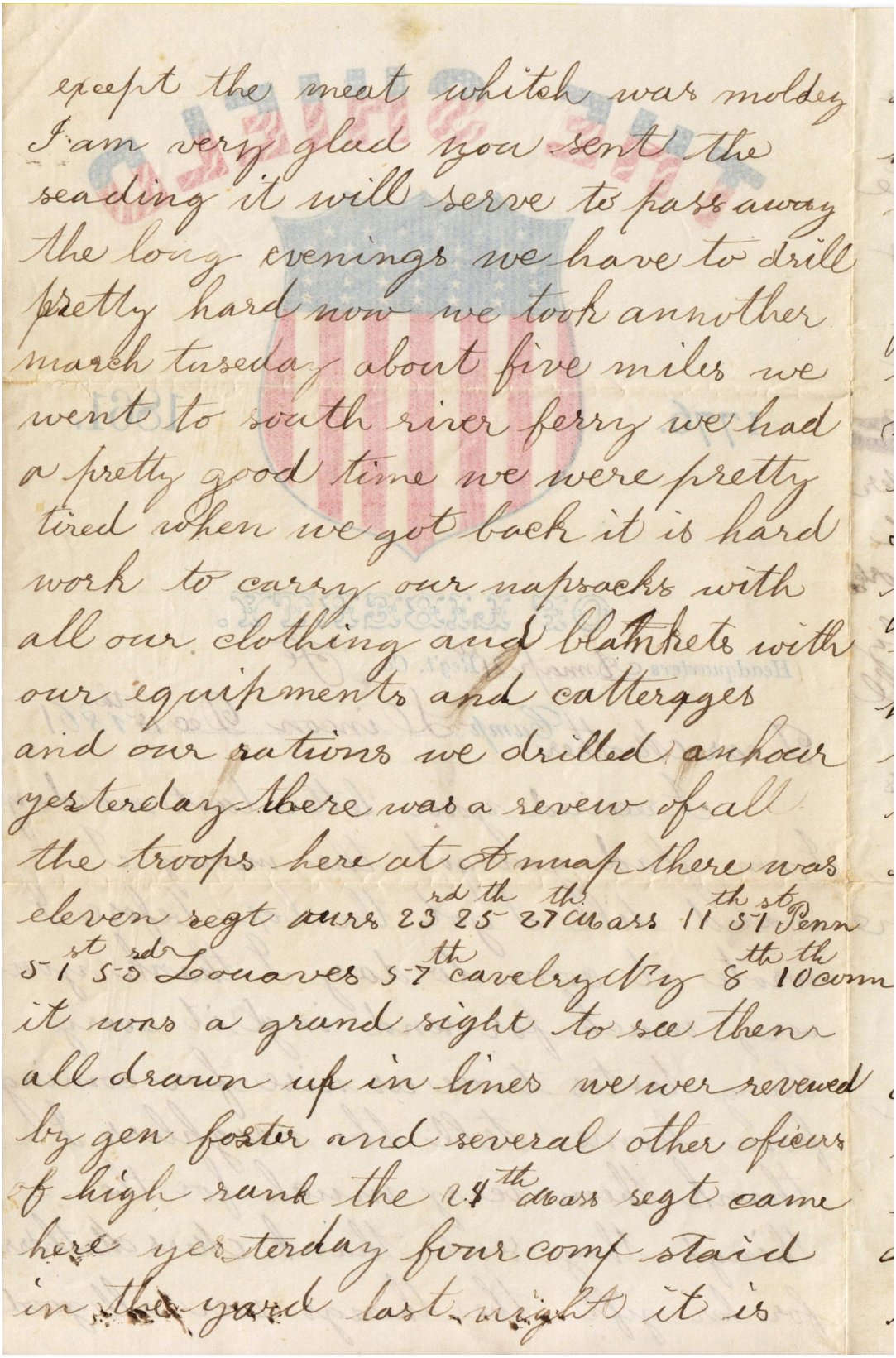
December 7, 1861 (1861.12.07) Page 2, Annapolis, MD



December 7, 1861 (1861.12.07) Envelope, Annapolis, MD

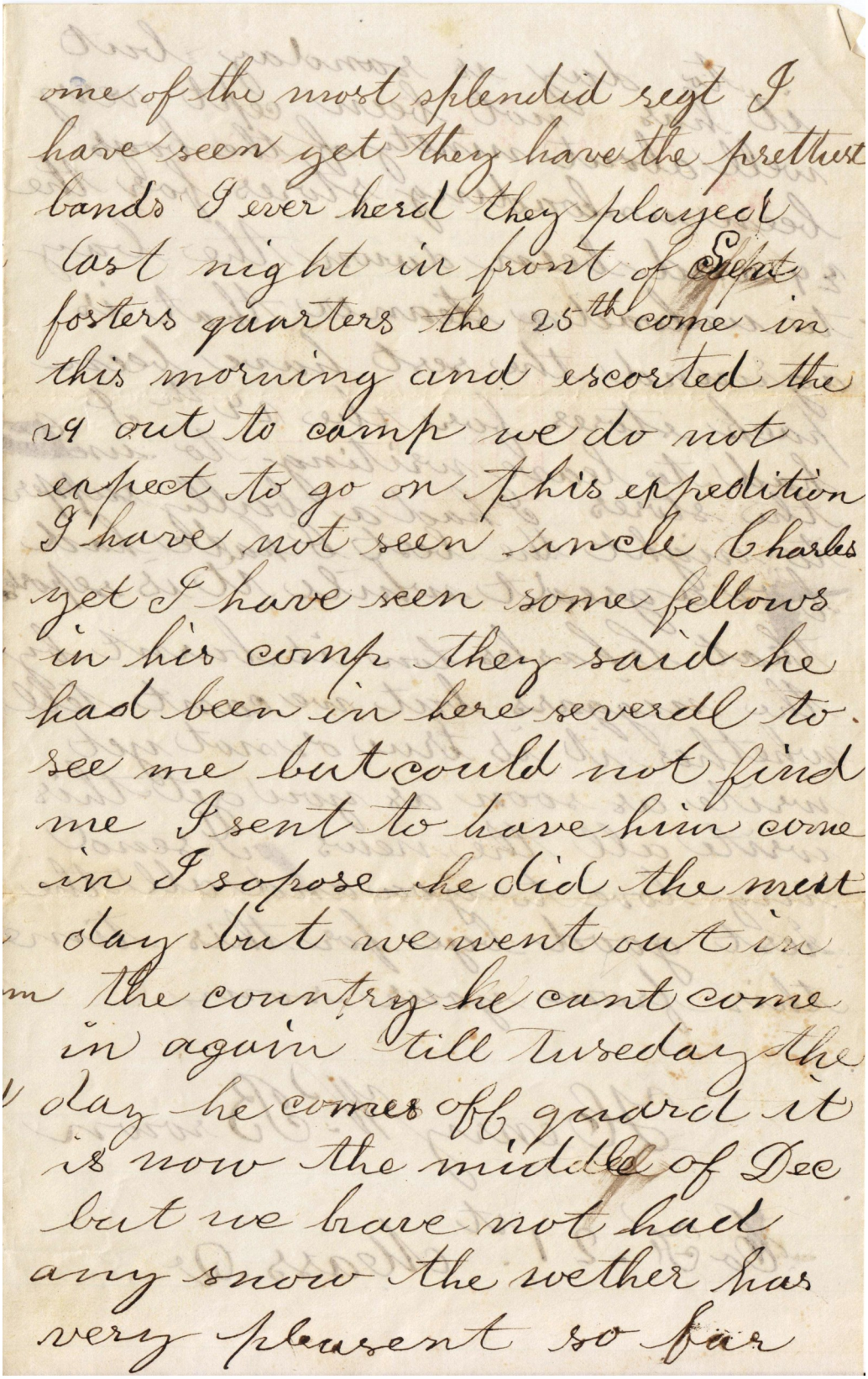


December 15, 1861 (1861.12.15) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



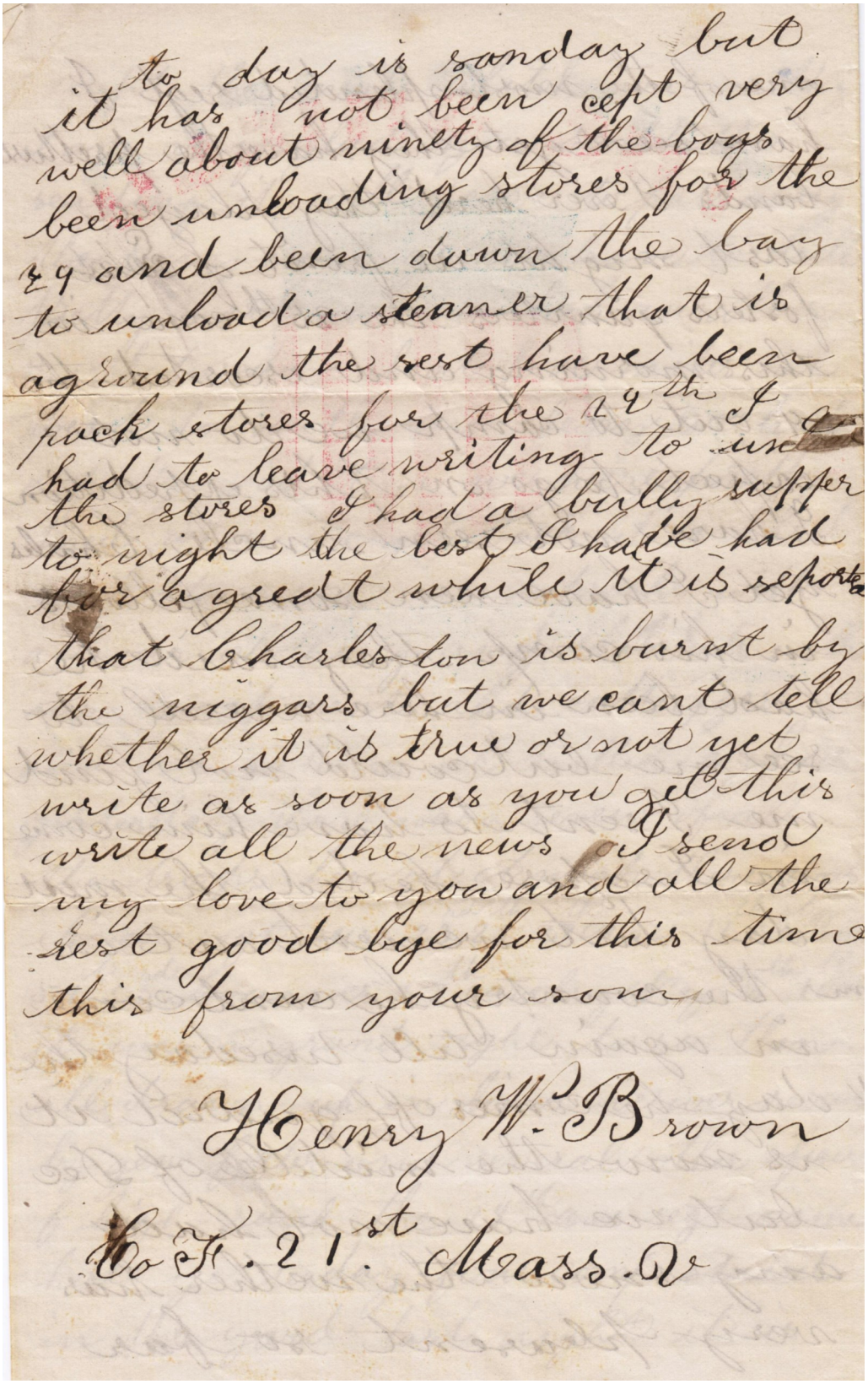
except the meat which was moldy
I am very glad you sent the
seading it will serve to pass away
the long evenings we have to drill
pretty hard now we took annother
march tuseday about five miles we
went to south river ferry we had
a pretty good time we were pretty
tired when we got back it is hard
work to carry our napsacks with
all our clothing and blankets with
our equipments and catterges
and our rations we drilled an hour
yesterday there was a revew of all
the troops here at Annap there was
eleven regt ams 23rd 25th 27th Mass 11th 51st Penn
51st 53rd Zouaves 57th cavelry N.Y. & 10th 10th com
it was a grand sight to see them
all drawn up in lines we wer revewed
by gen foster and several other ofiecrs
of high rank the 24th Mass regt came
here yesterday four comp staid
in the yard last night it is

December 15, 1861 (1861.12.15) Page 2, Annapolis, MD



one of the most splendid regt I
have seen yet they have the prettiest
bands I ever herd they played
last night in front of Genl
fosters quarters the 25th come in
this morning and escorted the
29 out to camp we do not
expect to go on this expedition
I have not seen uncle Charles
yet I have seen some fellows
in his comp they said he
had been in here severall to
see me but could not find
me I sent to have him come
in I sopose he did the next
day but we went out in
the country he cant come
in again till Tuesday the
day he comes off guard it
is now the middle of Dec
but we have not had
any snow the wether has
very pleasent so far

December 15, 1861 (1861.12.15) Page 3, Annapolis, MD



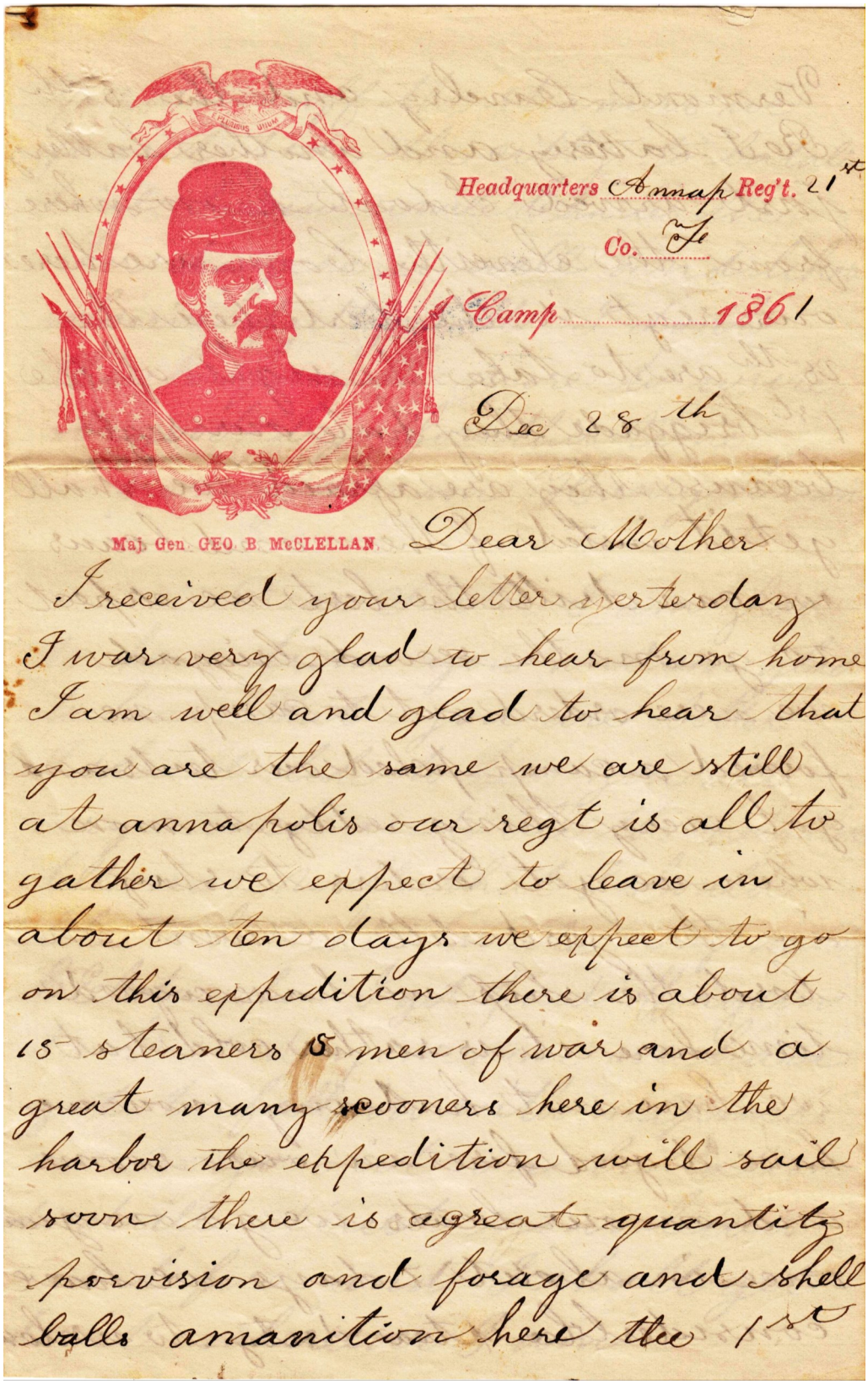
to day is sunday but it has not been kept very well about ninety of the boys been unloading stores for the 24 and been down the bay to unload a steamer that is aground the rest have been pack stores for the 22th I had to leave writing to unload the stores I had a bully supper to night the best I have had for a great while it is reported that Charleston is burnt by the niggars but we cant tell whether it is true or not yet write as soon as you get this write all the news I send my love to you and all the rest good bye for this time this from your son

Henry W. Brown

Co F. 21st Mass. V

December 15, 1861 (1861.12.15) Page 4, Annapolis, MD

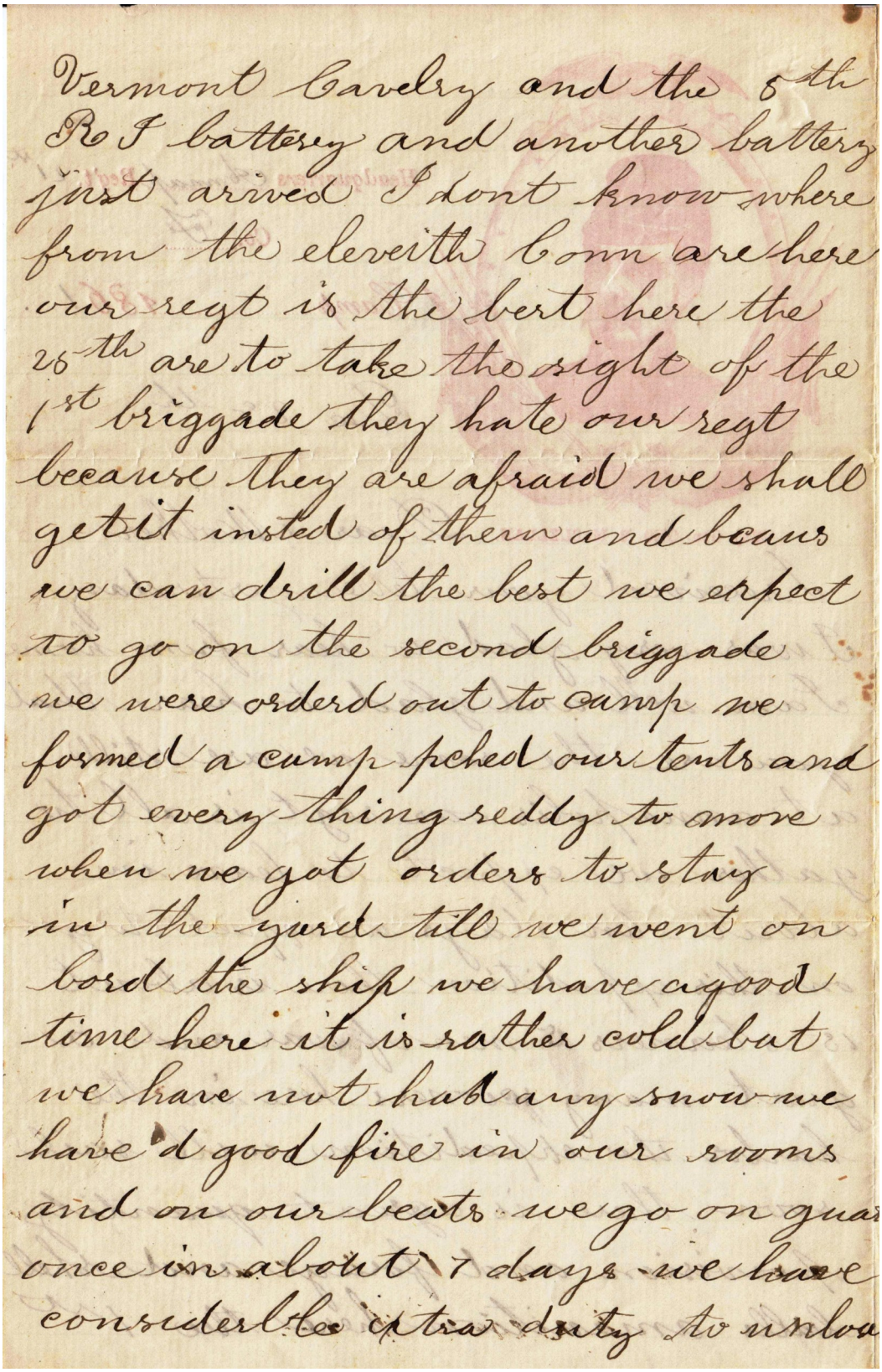
The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown



Headquarters Annap Reg't. 21st
Co. F
Camp 1861
Dec 28th

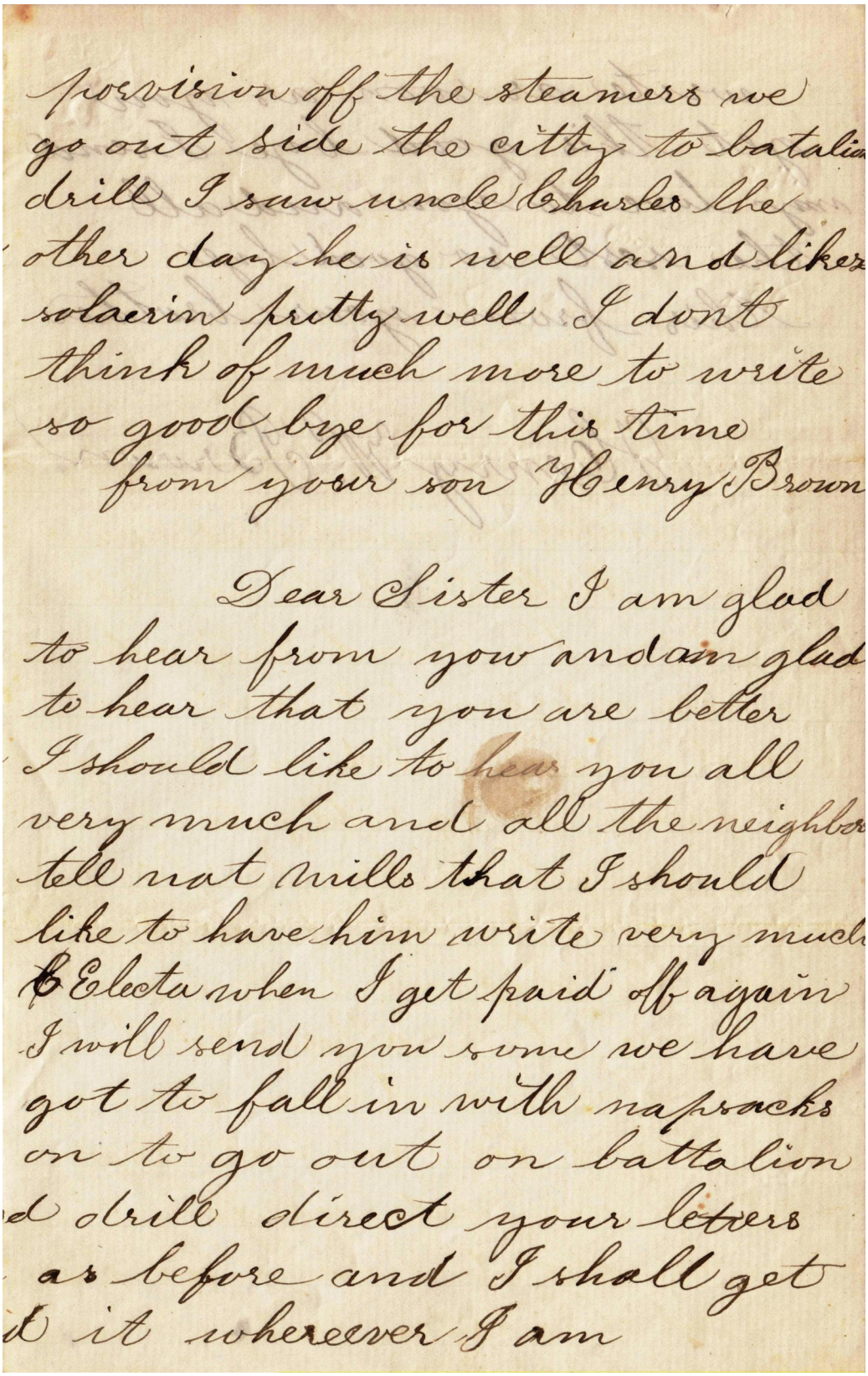
Dear Mother
I received your letter yesterday I war very glad to hear from home I am well and glad to hear that you are the same we are still at annapolis our regt is all to gather we expect to leave in about ten days we expect to go on this expedition there is about 15 steamers 8 men of war and a great many schooners here in the harbor the expedition will sail soon there is a great quantity porvision and forage and shell balls amanition here the 1st

December 28, 1861 (1861.12.28) Page 1, Annapolis, MD



Vermont Cavelry and the 6th
R. I battery and another battery
just arived I dont know where
from the eleventh Conn are here
our regt is the best here the
26th are to take the right of the
1st briggade they hate our regt
because they are afraid we shall
get it insted of them and beaus
we can drill the best we expect
to go on the second briggade
we were orderd out to camp we
formed a camp pched our tents and
got every thing reddy to move
when we got orders to stay
in the yard till we went on
bord the ship we have a good
time here it is rather cold but
we have not had any snow we
have'd good fire in our rooms
and on our beats we go on guar
once in about 7 days we have
considerble extra duty to unloa

December 28, 1861 (1861.12.28) Page 2, Annapolis, MD

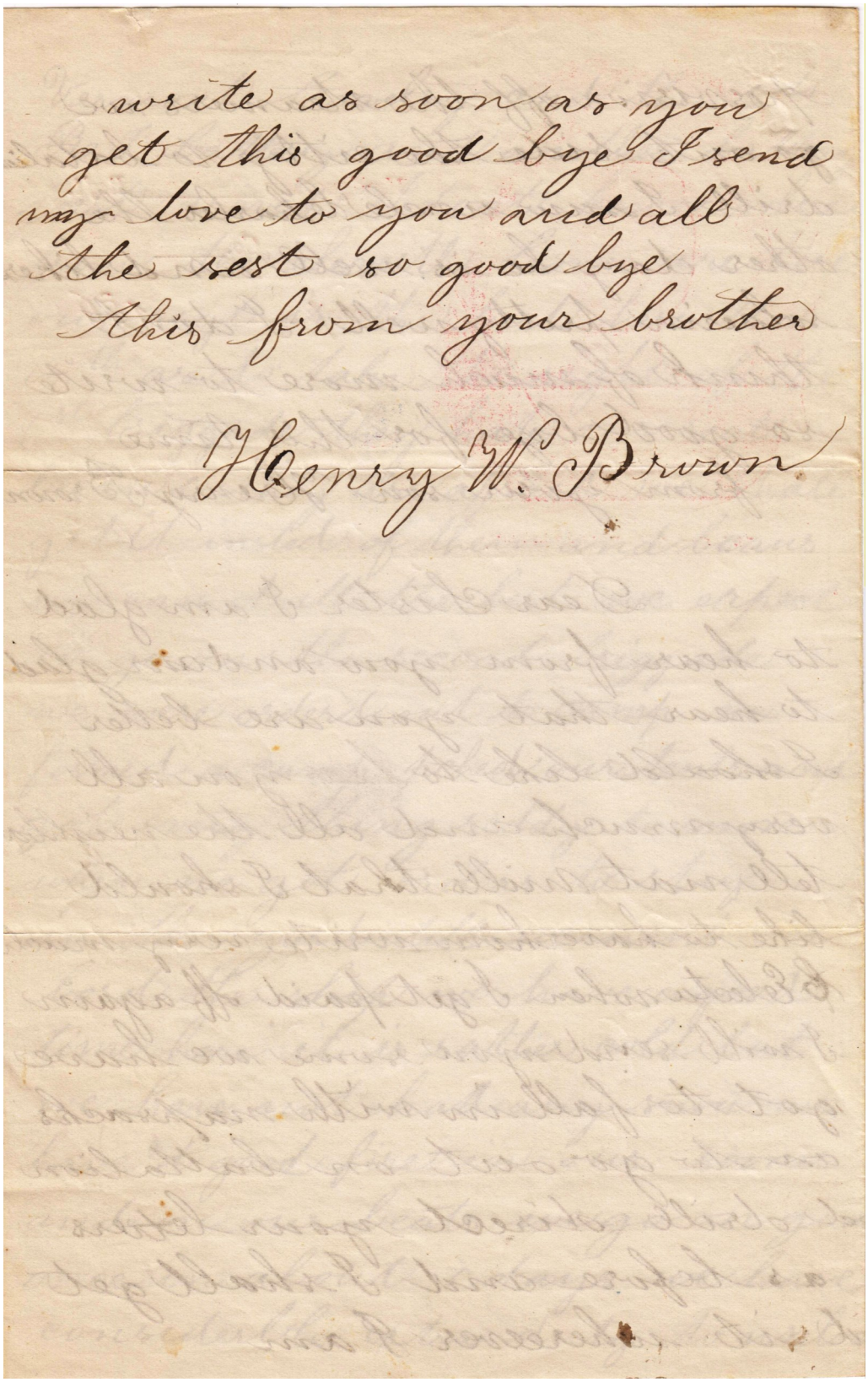


provision off the steamers we go out side the citty to batalion drill I saw uncle Charles the other day he is well and likes solaerin prtty well I dont think of much more to write so good bye for this time

from your son Henry Brown

Dear Sister I am glad to hear from you and am glad to hear that you are better I should like to hear you all very much and all the neighbors tell nat mills that I should like to have him write very much to Electa when I get paid off again I will send you some we have got to fall in with napsacks on to go out on battalion and drill direct your letters as before and I shall get it wherever I am

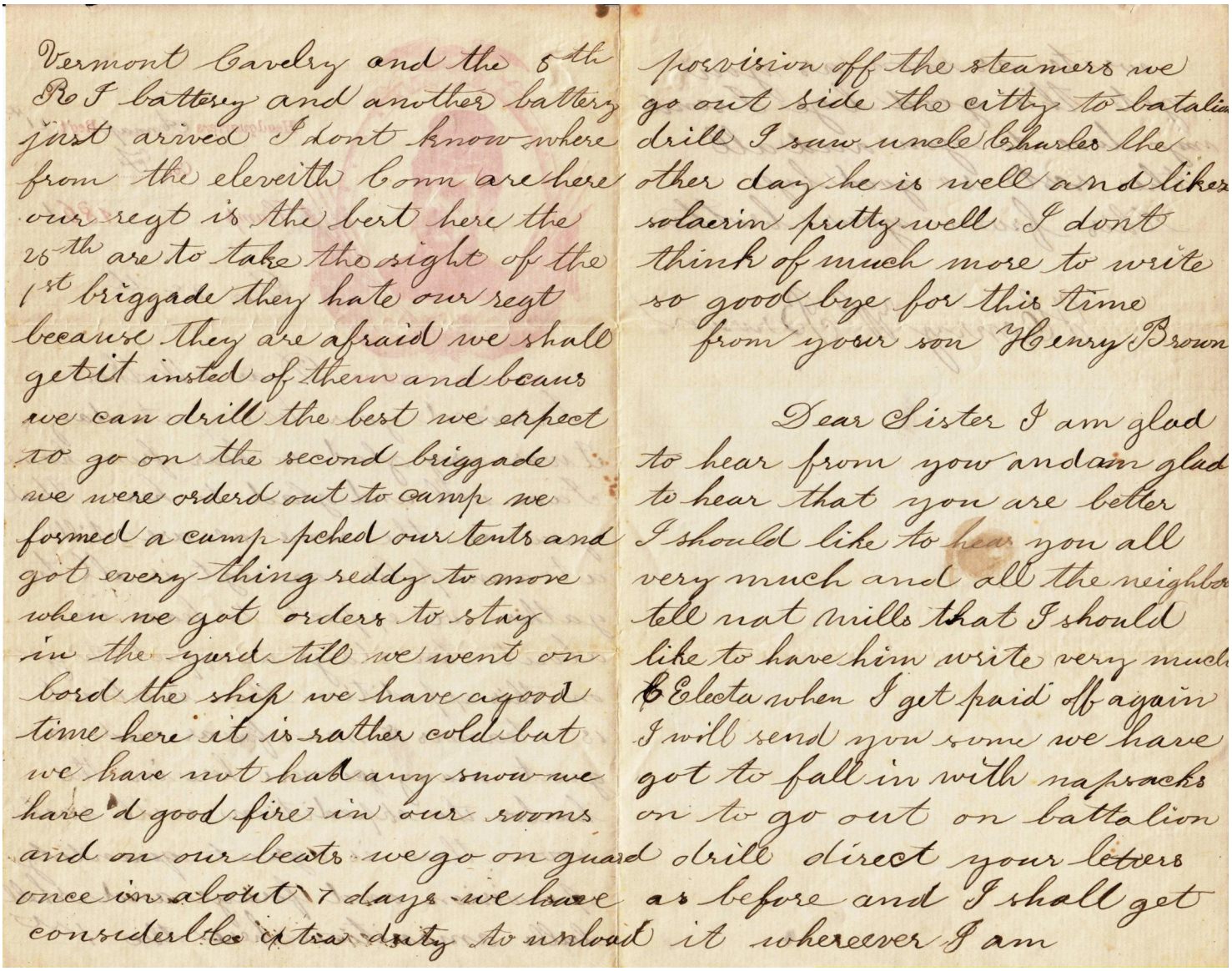
December 28, 1861 (1861.12.28) Page 3, Annapolis, MD



write as soon as you
get this good bye I send
my love to you and all
the rest so good bye
This from your brother

Henry W. Brown

December 28, 1861 (1861.12.28) Page 4, Annapolis, MD



Vermont Cavelry and the 6th R I battery and another battery just arived I dont know where from the eleventh Conn are here our regt is the best here the 26th are to take the sight of the 1st briggade they hate our regt because they are afraid we shall get it insted of them and beaus we can drill the best we expect to go on the second briggade we were orderd out to camp we formed a camp pched our tents and got every thing reddy to move when we got orders to stay in the yard till we went on bord the ship we have a good time here it is rather cold but we have not had any snow we have'd good fire in our rooms and on our beats we go on guard once in about 7 days we have considerble extra duty to unload provision off the steamers we go out side the city to batalion drill I saw uncle Charles the other day he is well and likes solacrin pritty well I dont think of much more to write so good bye for this time

from your son Henry Brown

Dear Sister I am glad to hear from yow and am glad to hear that you are better I should like to hear you all very much and all the neighbors tell nat mills that I should like to have him write very much to Electa when I get paid off again I will send yow some we have got to fall in with napsacks on to go out on battalion drill direct your letters as before and I shall get it wherever I am

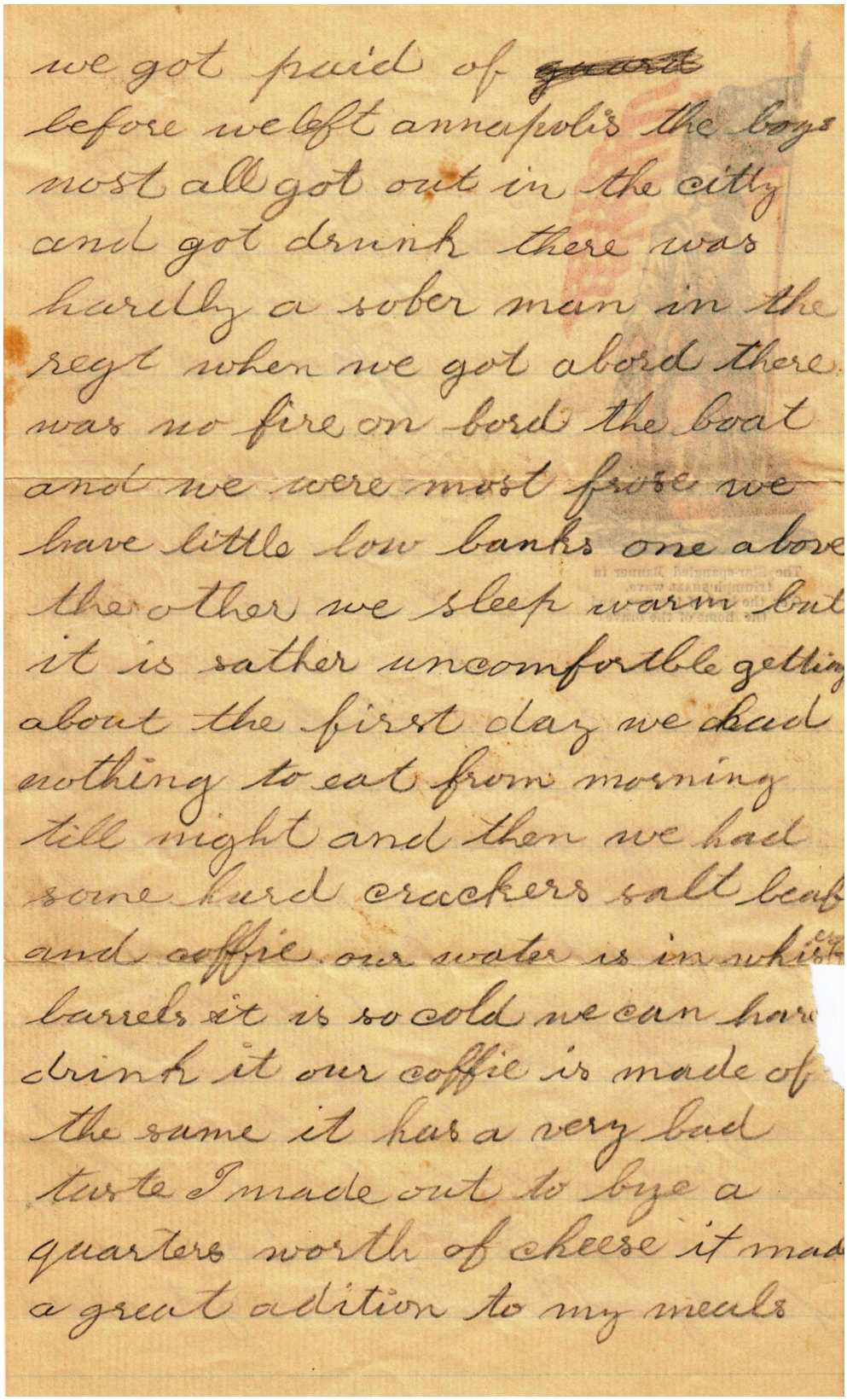
December 28, 1861 (1861.12.28) Pages 2 and 3, Annapolis, MD



Chesepeake Bay
on bord the steam
ship Northener
Jan 10th 1862

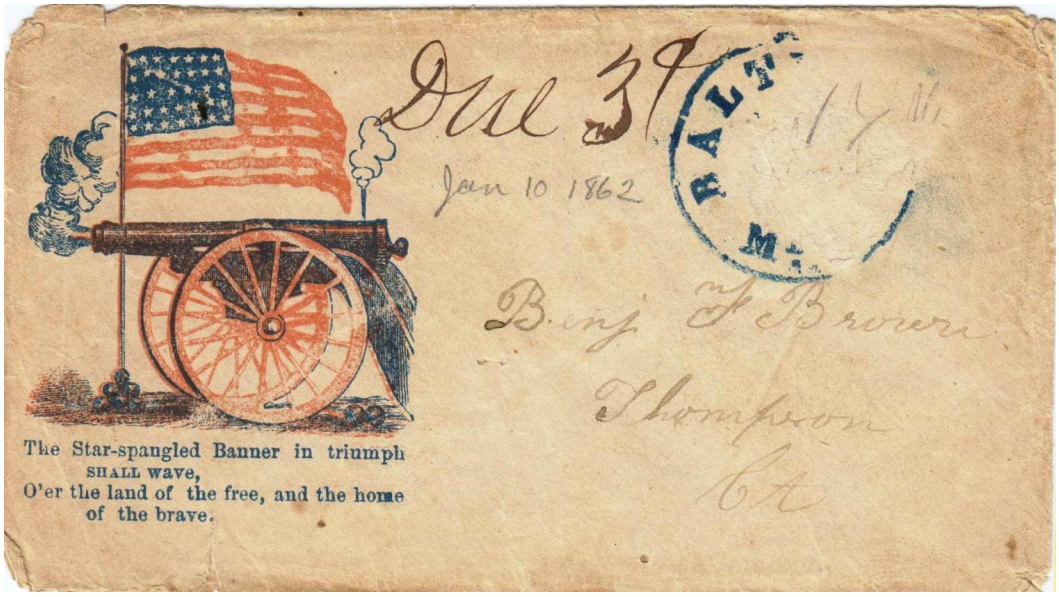
Dear Mother
we have started
on the expedition
we are anchord about 25
miles from Fortress Monroe
the pilot has lost his course
the fog is so thick we shall
start again as quick as it clears
off we went on bord the boat
monday noon and started yester
day at 10 oclock and cast anchor
half past eleven last night
we had a light fall of snow
at annapolis the wether was
pretty cold when we got abord

January 10, 1862 (1862.01.10) Page 1, Chesapeake Bay, MD

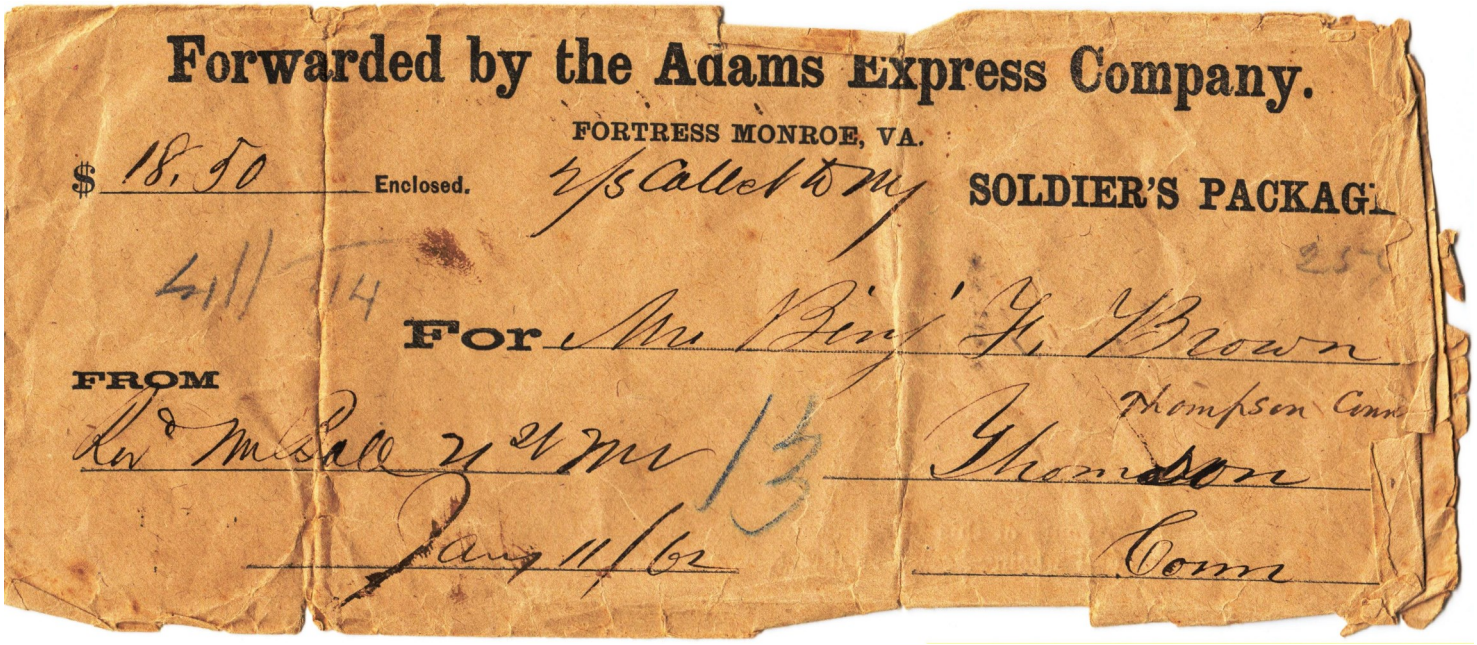


we got paid of ~~yesterday~~
before we left annapolis the boys
most all got out in the city
and got drunk there was
hardly a sober man in the
regt when we got abord there
was no fire on bord the boat
and we were most froze we
have little low banks one above
the other we sleep warm but
it is rather uncomfortble getting
about the first day we had
nothing to eat from morning
till night and then we had
some hard crackers salt beef
and coffie our water is in rusty
barrels it is so cold we can hardly
drink it our coffie is made of
the same it has a very bad
taste I made out to buy a
quarters worth of cheese it made
a great addition to my meals

January 10, 1862 (1862.01.10) Page 2, Chesapeake Bay, MD



January 10, 1862 (1862.01.10) Envelope, Chesapeake Bay, MD


Forwarded by the Adams Express Company.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA.

$ 18.50 Enclosed. 2/s Collect & My SOLDIER'S PACKAGE

For Mr Benj H. Brown

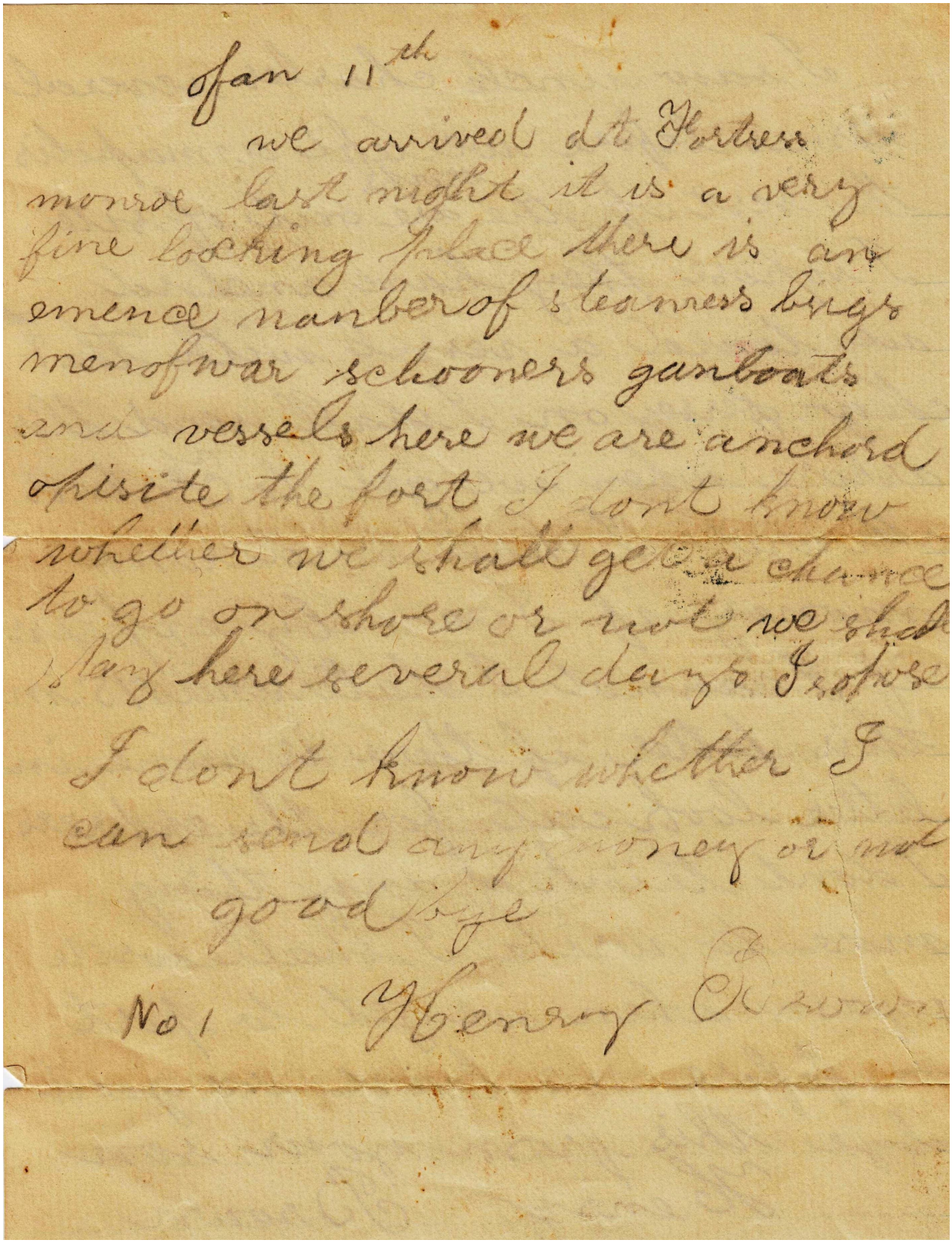
FROM

Thompson Conn

Rev M. Sill 21st Mr 13 Thompson

Jany 11/62 Conn

January 11, 1862 (1862.01.11) Envelope, Fortress Monroe, VA



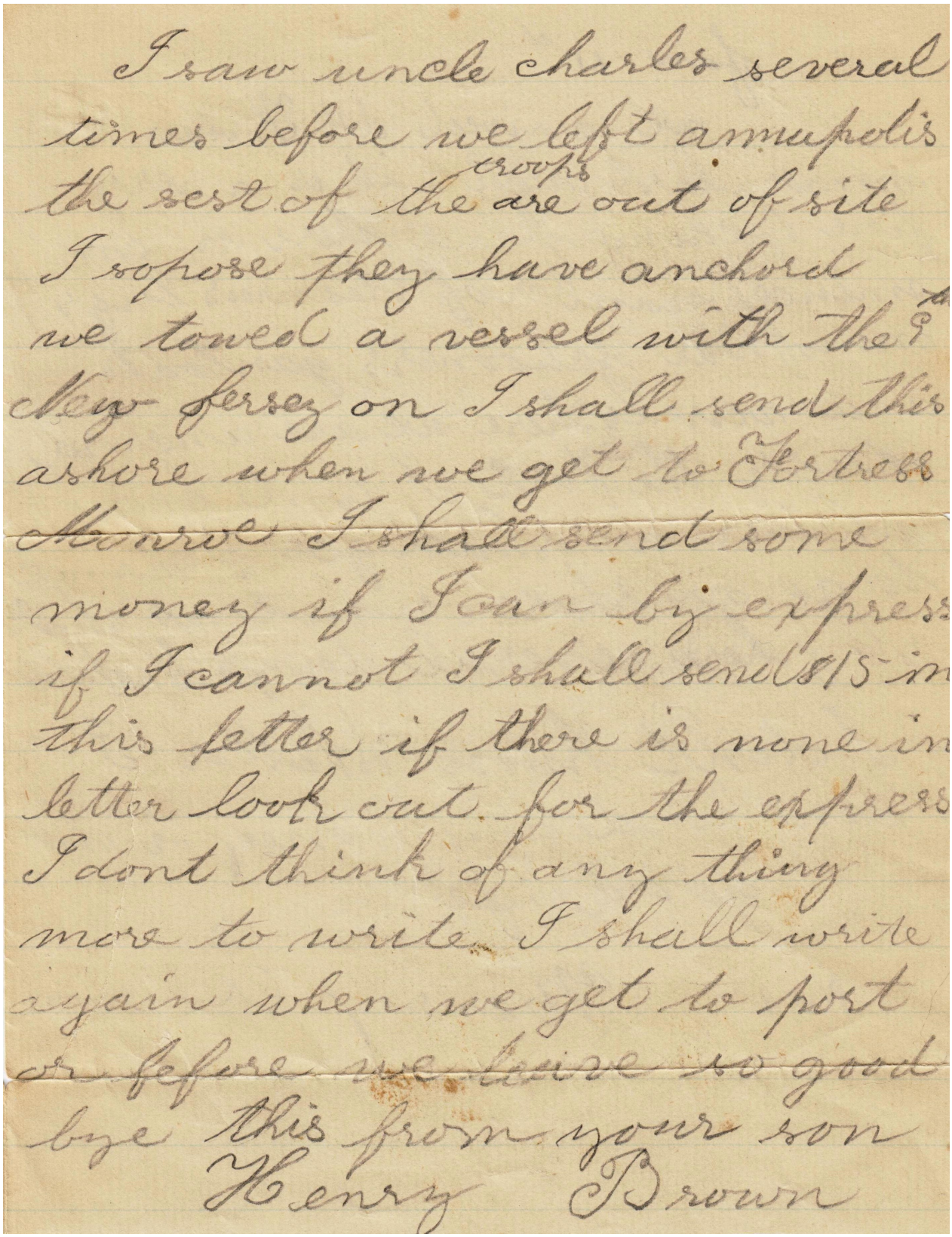
Jan 11th

we arrived at Fortress monroe last night it is a very fine looking place there is an emence number of steamers brigs men of war schooners gunboats and vessels here we are anchord opisite the fort I dont know whether we shall get a chance to go on shore or not we shall stay here several days I suppose I dont know whether I can send any money or not

good bye

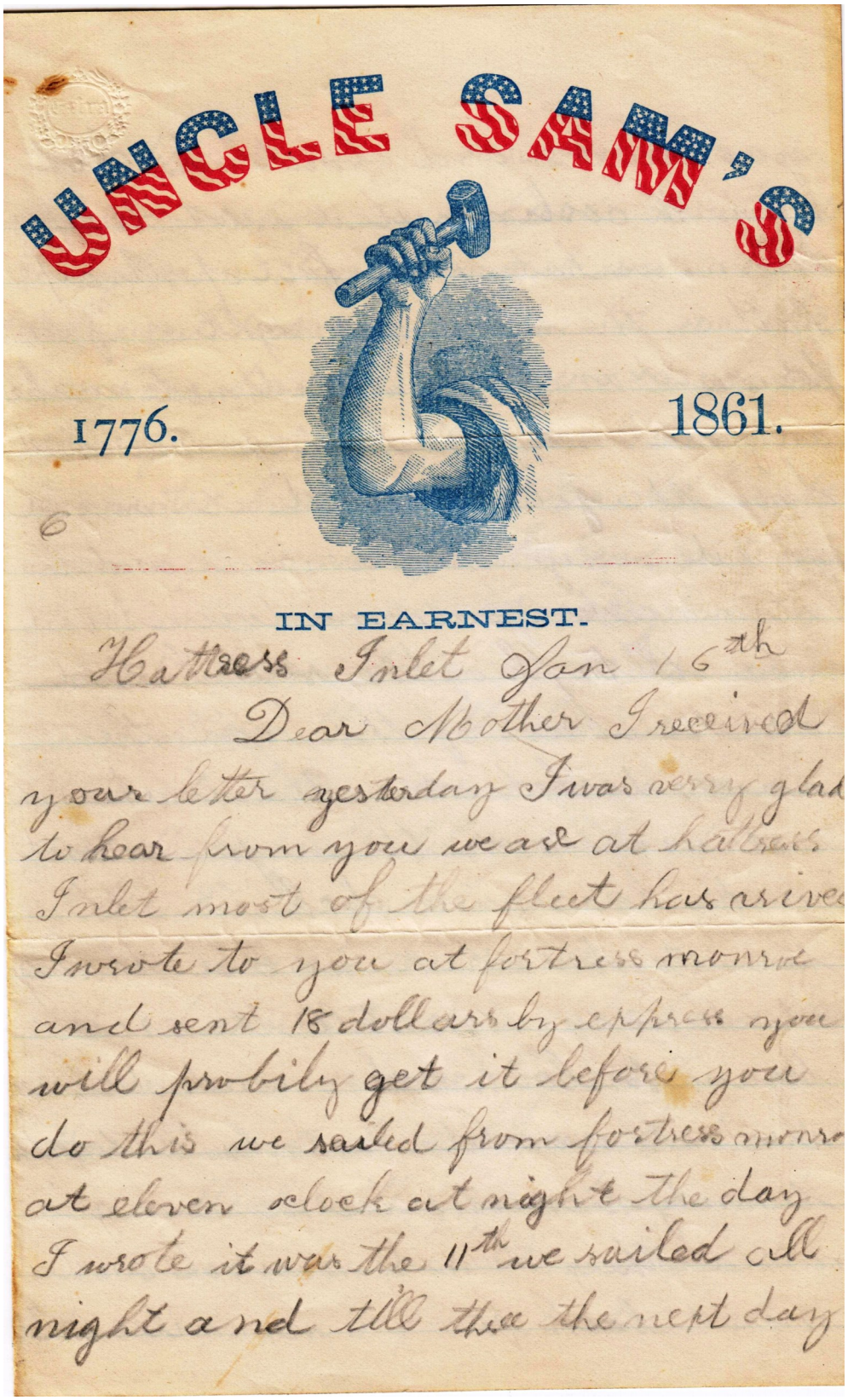
No 1 Henry

January 11, 1862 (1862.01.11) Page 1, Chesapeake Bay, MD



I saw uncle charles several
times before we left annapolis
the rest of the troops are out of site
I suppose they have anchord
we towed a vessel with the 9th
Key Jersey on I shall send this
ashore when we get to Fortress
~~Monroe I shall send some~~
money if I can by express
if I cannot I shall send 5/5 in
this letter if there is none in
letter look out for the express
I dont think of any thing
more to write I shall write
again when we get to port
~~or before we leave so good~~
bye this from your son
Henry Brown

January 11, 1862 (1862.01.11) Page 2, Chesapeake Bay, MD


UNCLE SAM'S

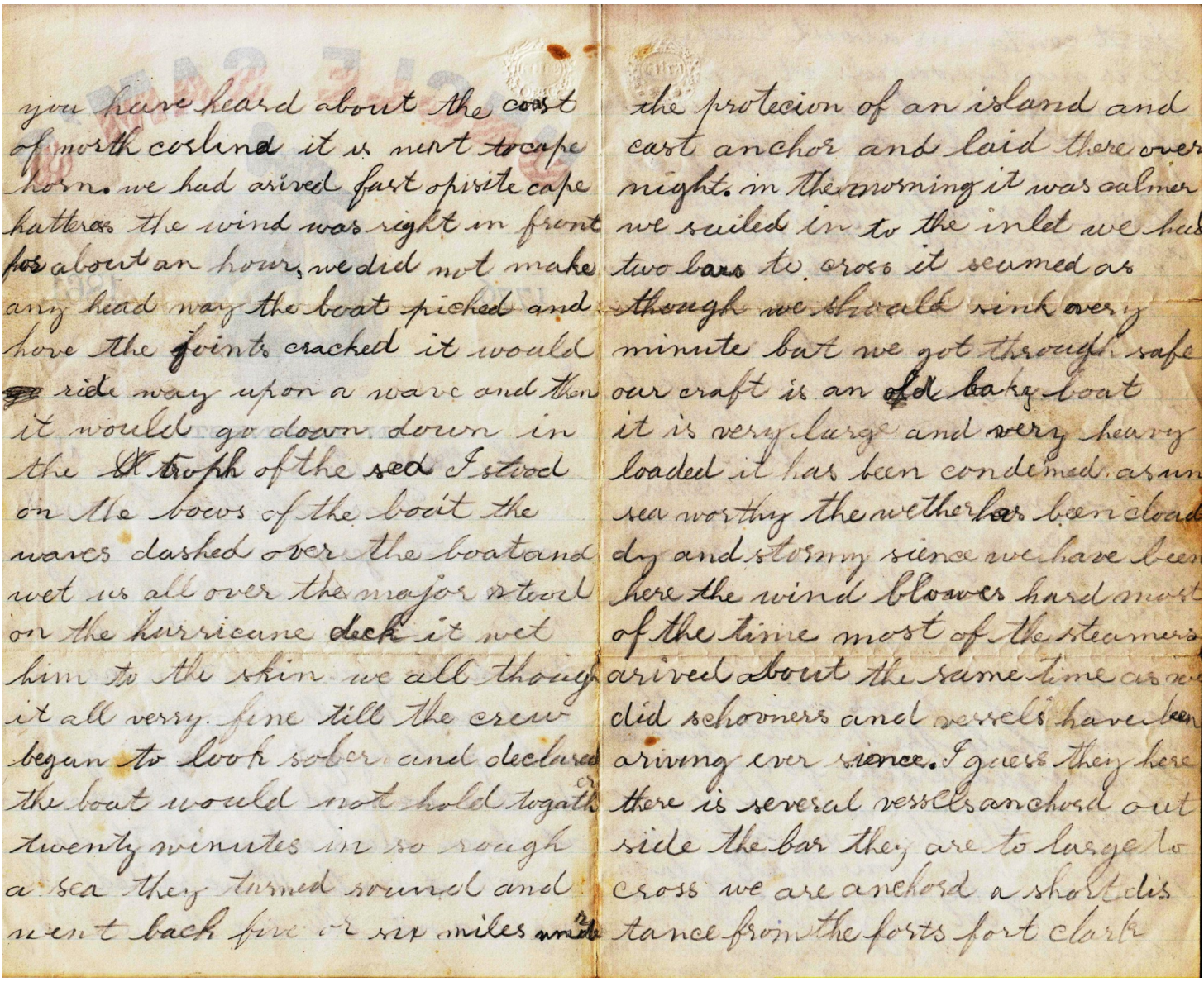
1776. 1861.

IN EARNEST.

Hatteras Inlet Jan 16th

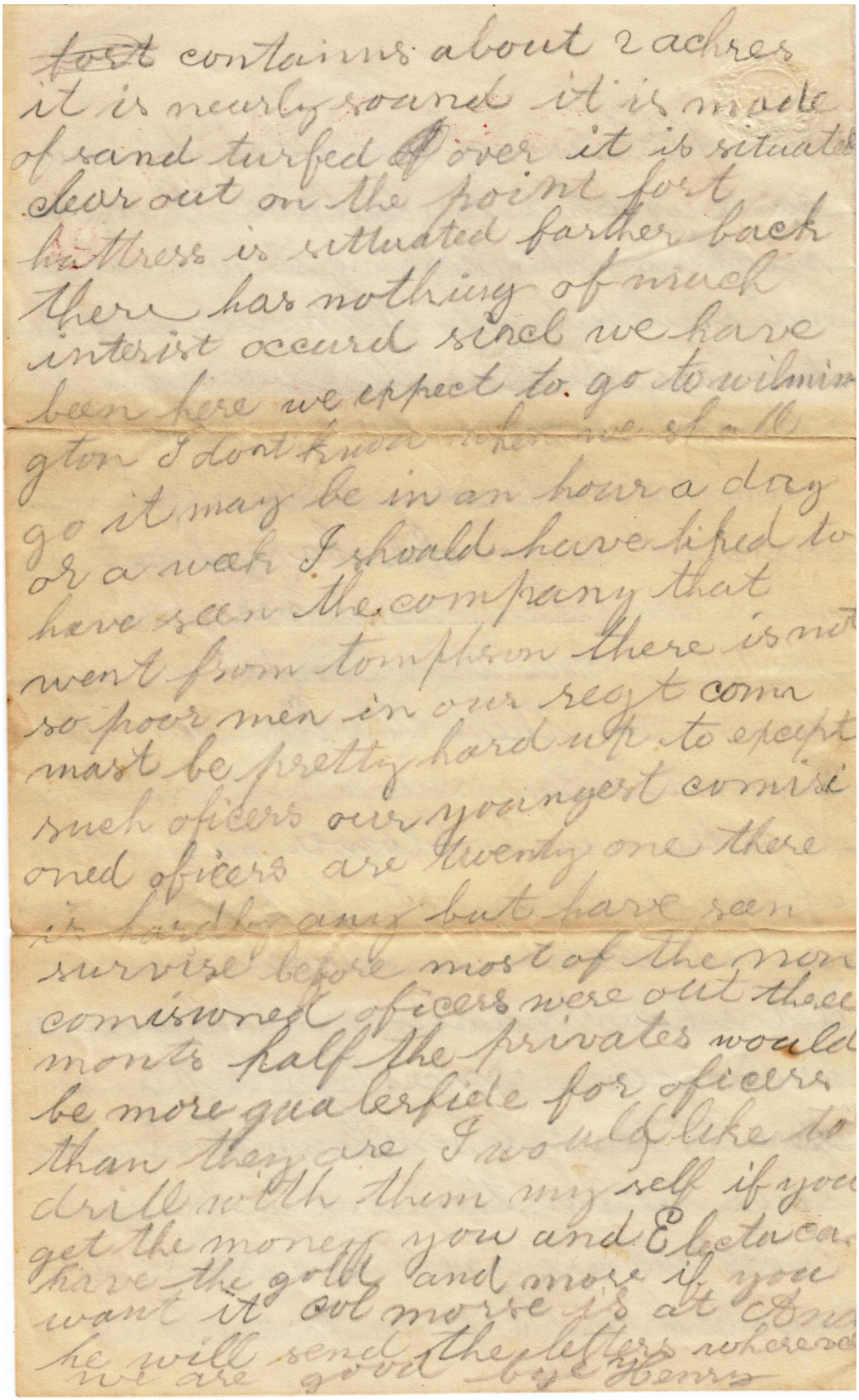
Dear Mother I received your letter yesterday I was very glad to hear from you we are at Hatteras Inlet most of the fleet has arrived I wrote to you at fortress monroe and sent 18 dollars by express you will probily get it before you do this we sailed from fortress monroe at eleven oclock at night the day I wrote it was the 11th we sailed all night and till this the next day

January 16, 1862 (1862.01.16) Page 1, Hatteras Inlet, NC



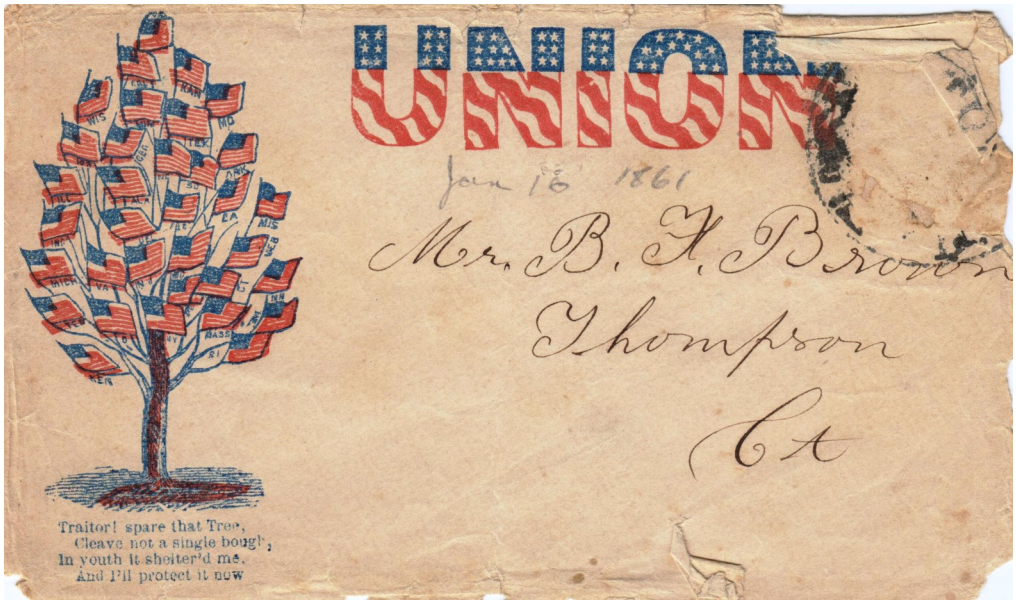
you have heard about the coast of north corlina it is next to cape horn. we had arived fast opisite cape hatteras the wind was right in front for about an hour, we did not make any head way the boat picked and hove the joints cracked it would ride way upon a wave and then it would go down down in the trough of the sea I stood on the bows of the boat the waves dashed over the boat and wet us all over the major stood on the hurricane deck it wet him to the skin we all though it all verry fine till the crew began to look sober and declared the boat would not hold togath twenty minutes in so rough a sea they turned round and went back five or six miles and the protecion of an island and cast anchor and laid there over night. in the morning it was calmer we sailed in to the inlet we had two bars to cross it seamed as though we should sink every minute but we got through safe our craft is an old bake boat it is very large and very heavy loaded it has been condemed as un sea worthy the wether has been cloud dy and stormy since we have been here the wind blowes hard most of the time most of the steamers arived about the same time as we did schooners and vessels have been arriving ever since. I guess they here there is several vessels anchord out side the bar they are to large to cross we are anchord a short dis tance from the forts fort clark

January 16, 1862 (1862.01.16) Pages 2 and 3, Hatteras Inlet, NC



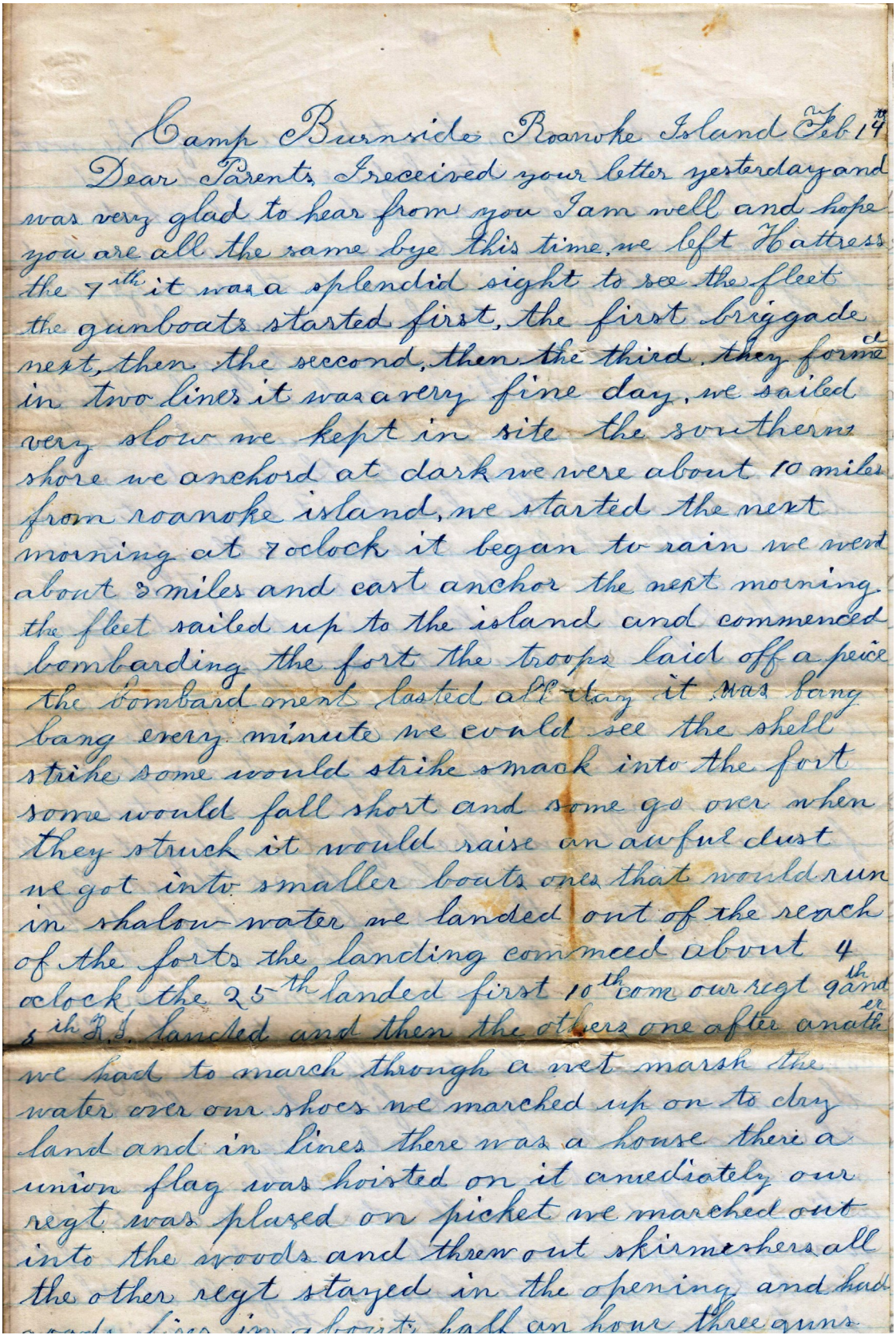
fort contains about 2 acres
it is nearly round it is made
of sand turfed over it is situated
clear out on the point fort
Hatteras is situated farther back
there has nothing of much
interist occurd since we have
been here we expect to go to wilmin
gton I dont know when we shall
go it may be in an hour a day
or a week I should have liked to
have seen the company that
went from tompkinsville there is not
so poor men in our reg't comp
must be pretty hard up to except
such officers our youngest comissi
oned officers are twenty one there
is hardly any but have seen
survise before most of the non
comisioned officers were out three
months half the privates would
be more qualified for officers
than they are I would like to
drill with them my self if you
get the money you and Electa can
have the gold and more if you
want it out more to at one
he will send the letters wherever
we are good bye Henry

January 16, 1862 (1862.01.16) Page 4, Hatteras Inlet, NC





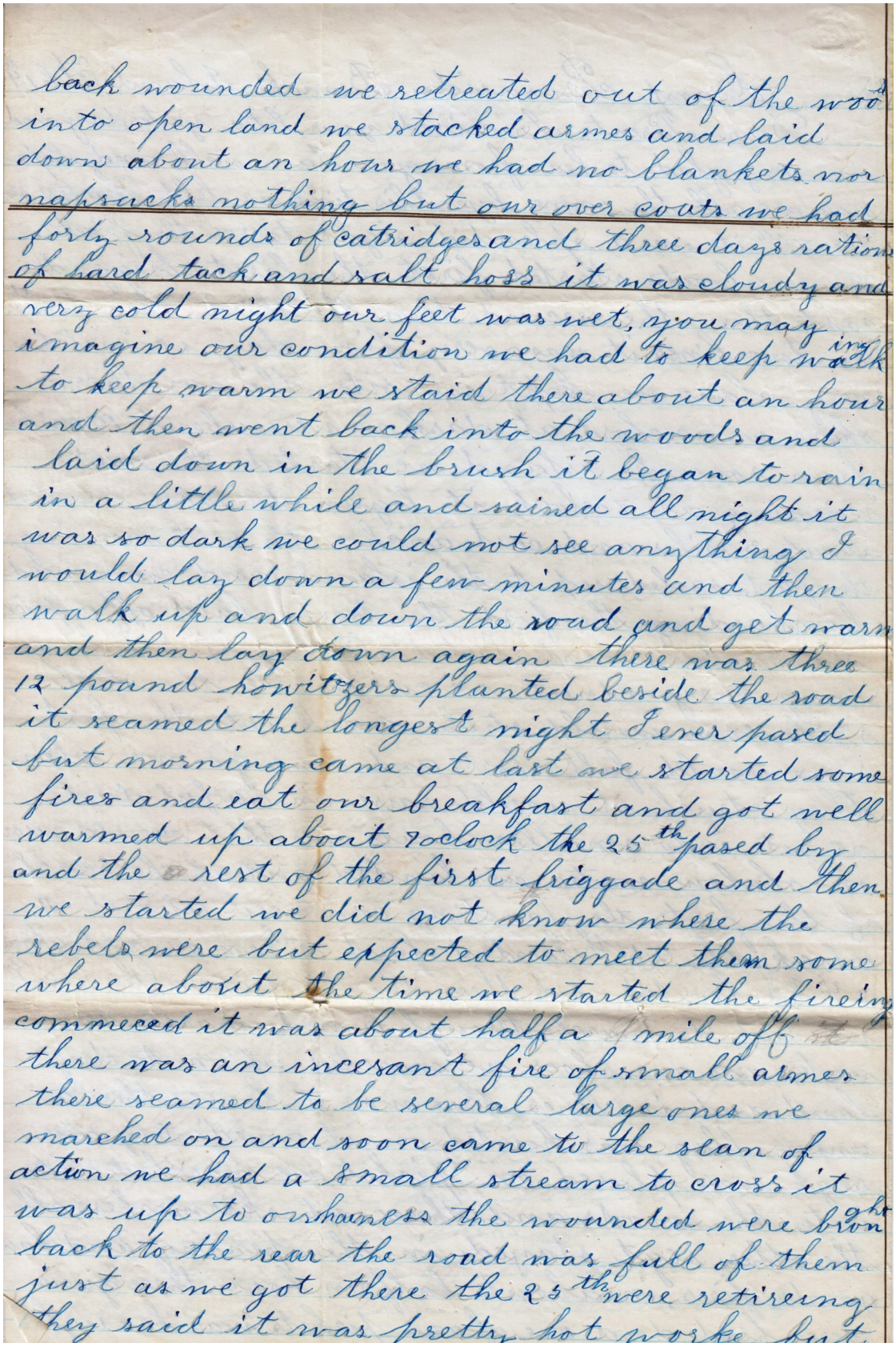
January 16, 1862 (1862.01.16) Envelope, Hatteras Inlet, NC



Camp Burnside Roanoke Island Feb 14th

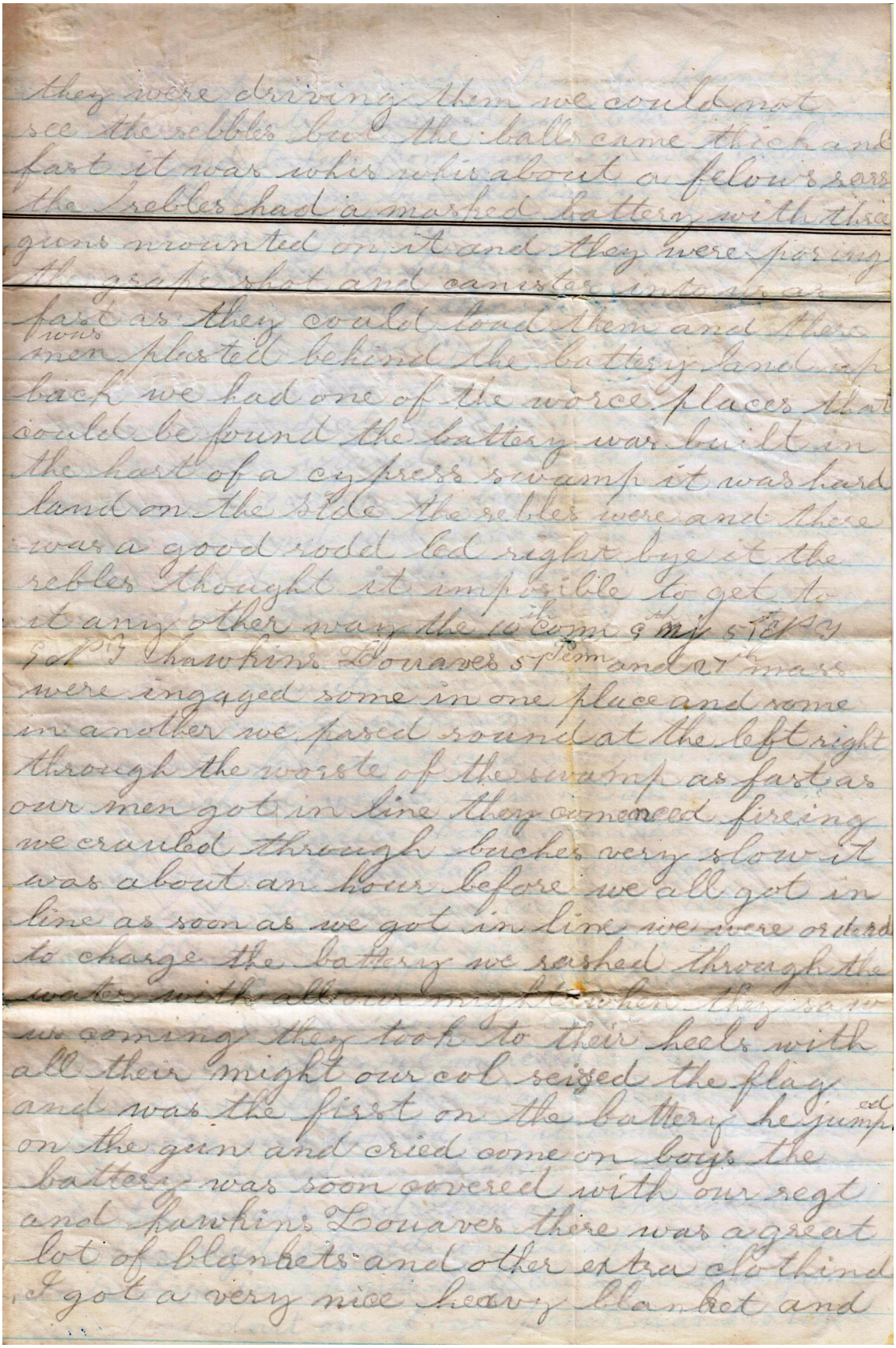
Dear Parents I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you I am well and hope you are all the same bye this time, we left Hatteras the 7th it was a splendid sight to see the fleet the gunboats started first, the first brigade next, then the second, then the third, they formed in two lines it was a very fine day, we sailed very slow we kept in site the southern shore we anchord at dark we were about 10 miles from roanoke island, we started the next morning at 7 oclock it began to rain we went about 3 miles and cast anchor the next morning the fleet sailed up to the island and commenced bombarding the fort the troops laid off a peice the bombardment lasted all day it was bang bang every minute we could see the shell strike some would strike smack into the fort some would fall short and some go over when they struck it would raise an awful dust we got into smaller boats ones that would run in shalow water we landed out of the reach of the forts the landing commenced about 4 oclock the 25th landed first 10th com our regt 9th and 5th R.I. landed and then the others one after another we had to march through a wet marsh the water over our shoes we marched up on to dry land and in lines there was a house there a union flag was hoisted on it anediately our regt was plased on picket we marched out into the woods and threw out skirmishers all the other regt stayed in the opening and had [illegible] lines in about half an hour three guns

February 14, 1862 (1862.02.14) Page 1, Camp Burnside, Roanoke Island, NC



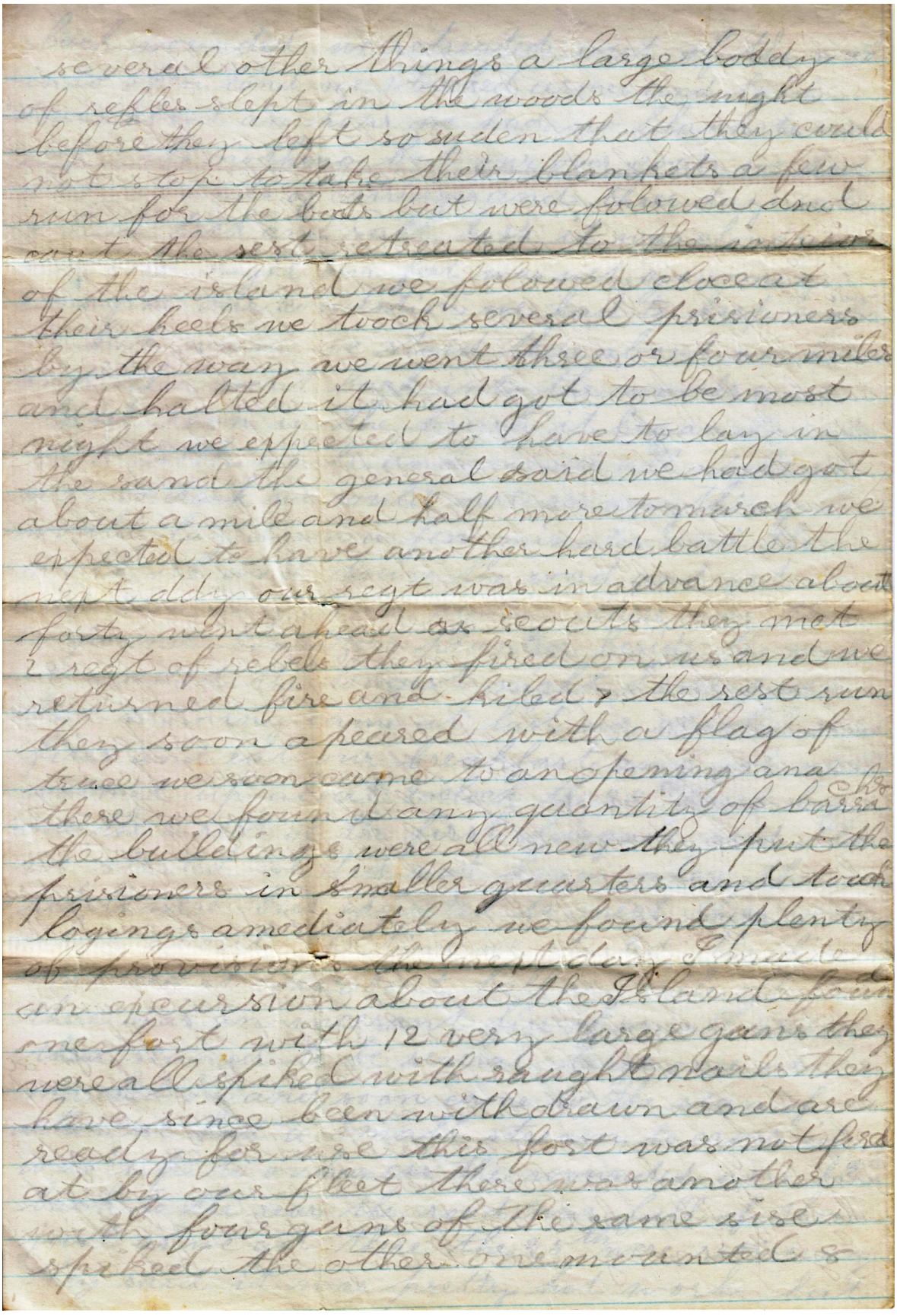
back wounded we retreated out of the woods into open land we stacked armes and laid down about an hour we had no blankets nor napsacks nothing but our over coats we had forty rounds of catridges and three days rations of hard tack and salt hoss it was cloudy and very cold night our feet was wet, you may imagine our condition we had to keep walking to keep warm we staid there about an hour and then went back into the woods and laid down in the brush it began to rain in a little while and rained all night it was so dark we could not see anything I would lay down a few minutes and then walk up and down the road and get warm and then lay down again there was three 12 pound howitzers planted beside the road it seamed the longest night I ever pased but morning came at last we started some fires and eat our breakfast and got well warmed up about 7 oclock the 25th pased by and the rest of the first brigade and then we started we did not know where the rebels were but expected to meet them some where about the time we started the firing commenced it was about half a mile off there was an incesant fire of small armes there seamed to be several large ones we marched on and soon came to the sean of action we had a small stream to cross it was up to our hoarness the wounded were brought back to the rear the road was full of them just as we got there the 25th were retireing they said it was pretty hot work but

February 14, 1862 (1862.02.14) Page2, Camp Burnside, NC



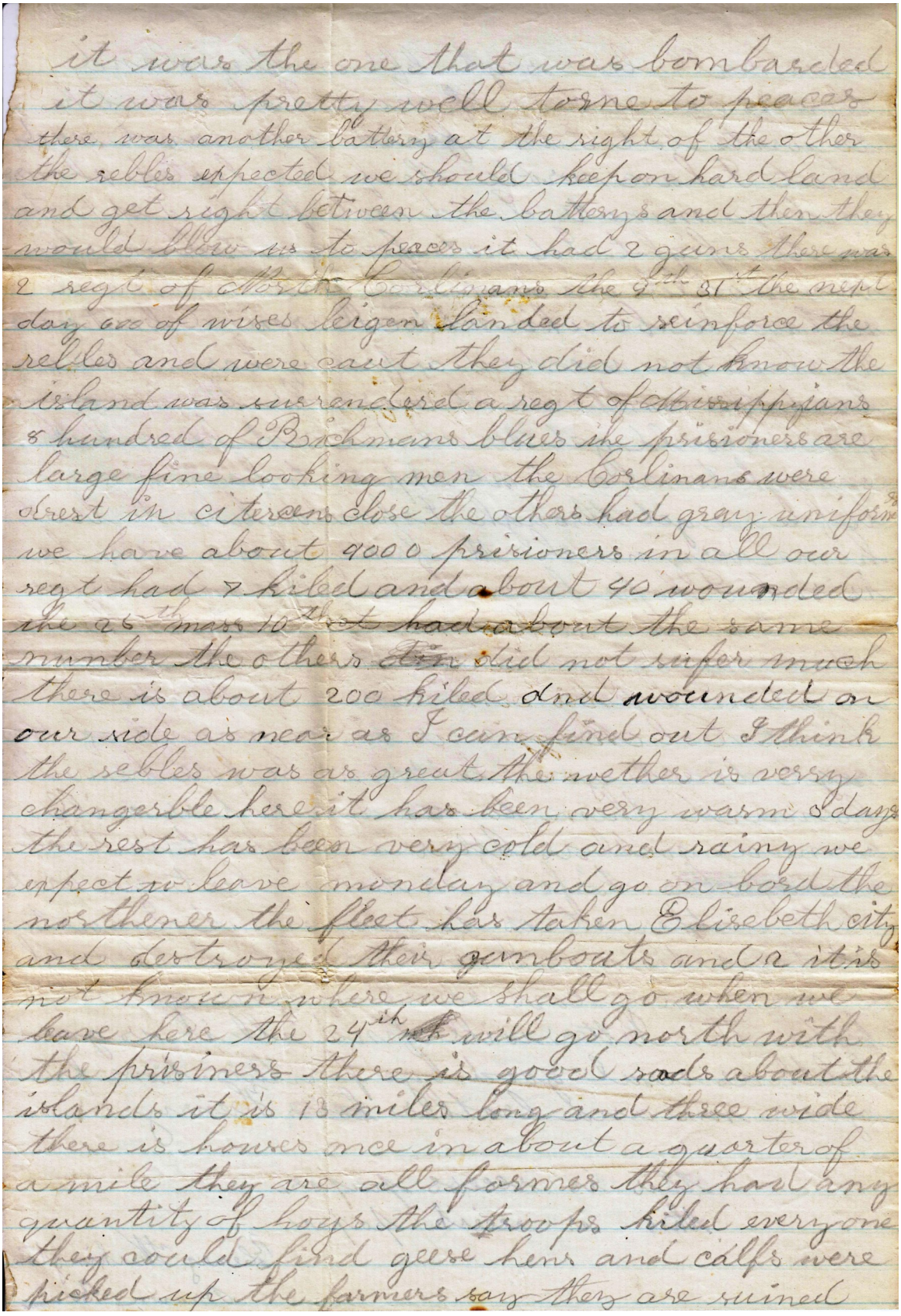
they were driving them we could not
see the rebbles but the balls came thick and
fast it was whiz whiz about a felows ears
the rebbles had a masked battery with three
guns mounted on it and they were pouring
the grape shot and canister into us as
fast as they could load them and there
men plaseed behind the battery and up
back we had one of the worse places that
could be found the battery was built in
the hart of a cypress swamp it was hard
land on the side the rebbles were and there
was a good road led right bye it the
rebbles thought it impsible to get to
it any other way the 11th Com & my Co
Capt Hawkins Louaves 51st Regm and 21st Mass
were ingaged some in one place and some
in another we pased round at the left right
through the worste of the swamp as fast as
our men got in line they commenced fireing
we crauled through bushes very slow it
was about an hour before we all got in
line as soon as we got in line we were ordered
to charge the battery we rushed through the
water with all our might when they saw
us coming they took to their heels with
all their might our col seized the flag
and was the first on the battery he jumped
on the gun and cried come on boys the
battery was soon covered with our regt
and Hawkins Louaves there was a great
lot of blankets and other extra clothing
I got a very nice heavy blanket and

February 14, 1862 (1862.02.14) Page 3, Camp Burnside, NC



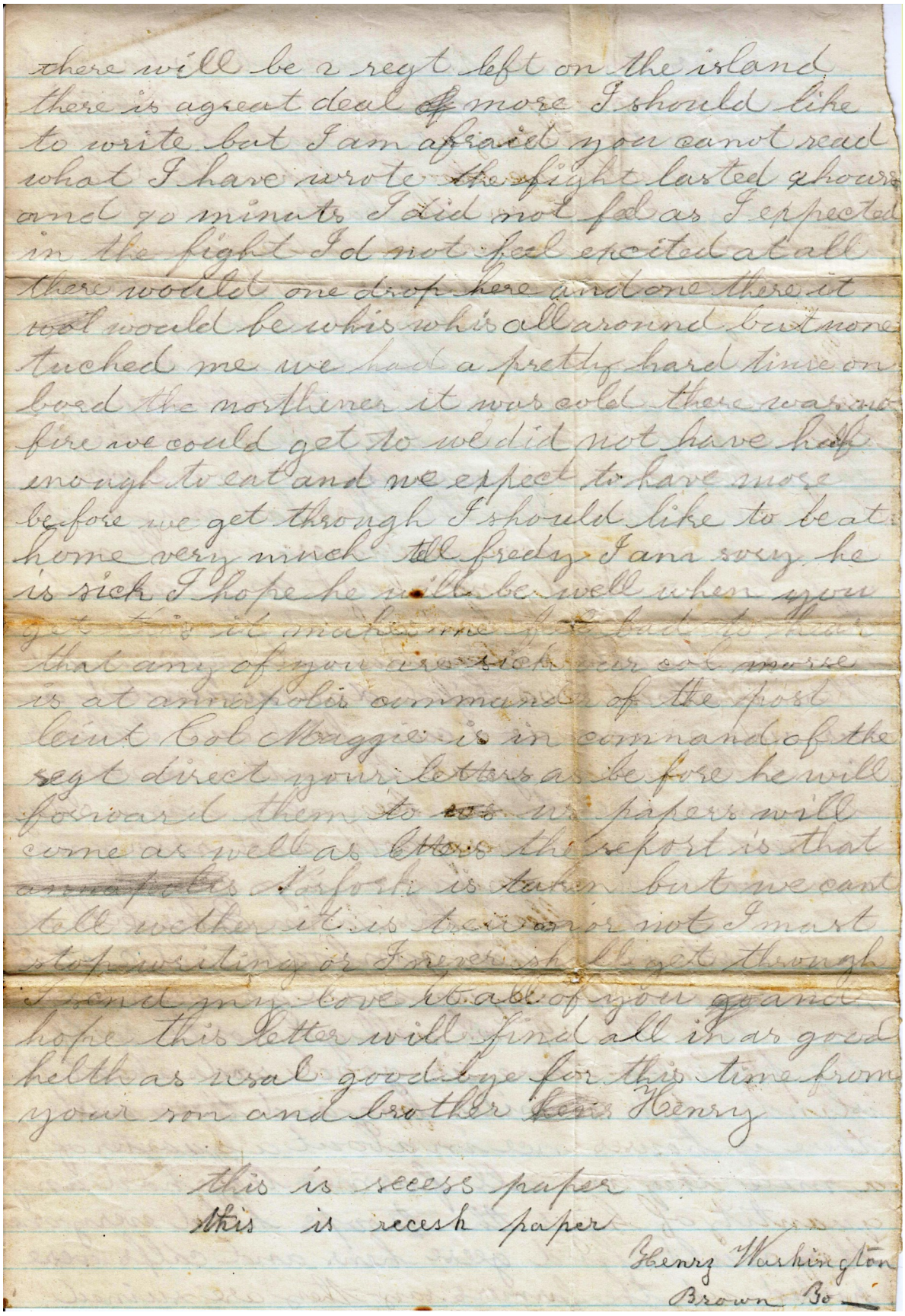
several other things a large body of rebels slept in the woods the night before they left so sudden that they could not stop to take their blankets a few run for the boats but were followed and out the rest retreated to the interior of the island we followed close at their heels we took several prisioners by the way we went three or four miles and halted it had got to be most night we expected to have to lay in the sand the general said we had got about a mile and half more to march we expected to have another hard battle the next day our regt was in advance about forty rods ahead as scouts they met a regt of rebels they fired on us and we returned fire and killed 7 the rest run they soon appeared with a flag of truce we soon came to an opening and there we found any quantity of barracks the buildings were all new they put the prisioners in smaller quarters and took lodgings amediately we found plenty of provision the next day I made an excursion about the Island found one fort with 12 very large guns they were all spiked with draught nails they have since been withdrawn and are ready for use this fort was not fired at by our fleet there was another with four guns of the same sizes spiked the other one mounted 8

February 14, 1862 (1862.02.14) Page 4, Camp Burnside, NC



it was the one that was bombarded it was pretty well torne to peaces there was another battery at the right of the other the rebles expected we should keep on hard land and get right between the batterys and then they would blow us to peaces it had 2 guns there was 2 regts of North Carlinans the 9th & 31st the next day one of wises legen landed to reinforce the rebles and were sent they did not know the island was surrendered a regt of Mississippians & hundred of Richmans blues the prisioners are large fine looking men the Carlinans were dress in citizens close the others had gray uniform we have about 9000 prisioners in all our regt had 7 killed and about 40 wounded the 23rd mass 10 ~~but had about the same number the others~~ did not suffer much there is about 200 killed and wounded on our side as near as I can find out I think the rebles was as great the wether is very changerble here it has been very warm 5 days the rest has been very cold and rainy we xpect to leave monday and go on bord the northener the fleet has taken Elisebeth city and destroyed their gunboats and it is not known where we shall go when we leave here the 24th reg will go north with the prisioners there is good roads about the islands it is 18 miles long and three wide there is houses one in about a quarter of a mile they are all farmers they had any quantity of hogs the troops killed every one they could find geese hens and calfs were picked up the farmers say they are ruined

February 14, 1862 (1862.02.14) Page 5, Camp Burnside, NC



there will be a regt left on the island
there is a great deal ~~of~~ more I should like
to write but I am afraid you cant read
what I have wrote the fight lasted 4 hours
and 40 minutes I did not feel as I expected
in the fight I did not feel excited at all
there would be one drop here and one there it
would be whiz whiz all around but none
touched me we had a pretty hard time on
board the northener it was cold there was no
fire we could get to we did not have half
enough to eat and we expect to have more
before we get through I should like to be at
home very much tell Fredy I am sorry he
is sick I hope he will be well when you
get this it makes me feel bad to hear
that any of you are sick or ever ~~ever~~ more
is at annapolis commanded of the post
Lieut Col Maggie is in command of the
regt direct your letters as before he will
forward them to us papers will
come as well as ~~this~~ the report is that
annapolis Norfolk is taken but we cant
tell wether it is true or not I must
stop writing or I never shall get through
I cannot express my love to all of you good
hope this letter will find all in as good
health as usual good bye for this time from
your son and brother Henry

this is recess paper
this is recess paper

Henry Washington
Brown Co

February 14, 1862 (1862,.02.14) Page 6, Camp Burnside, NC



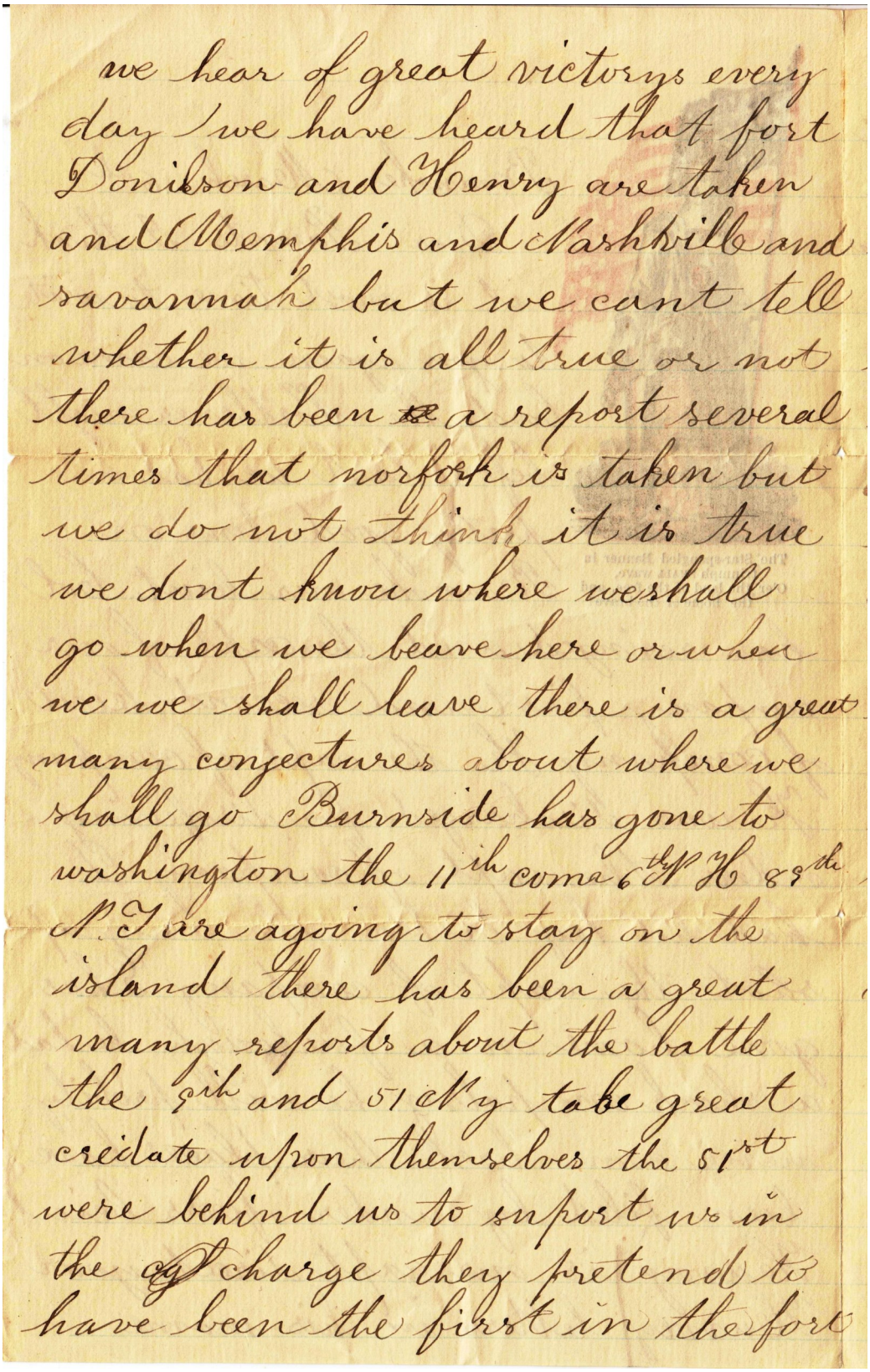
March 6, 1862 (1862.03.06) Envelope, Roanoke Island, NC



Roanoke March 6th

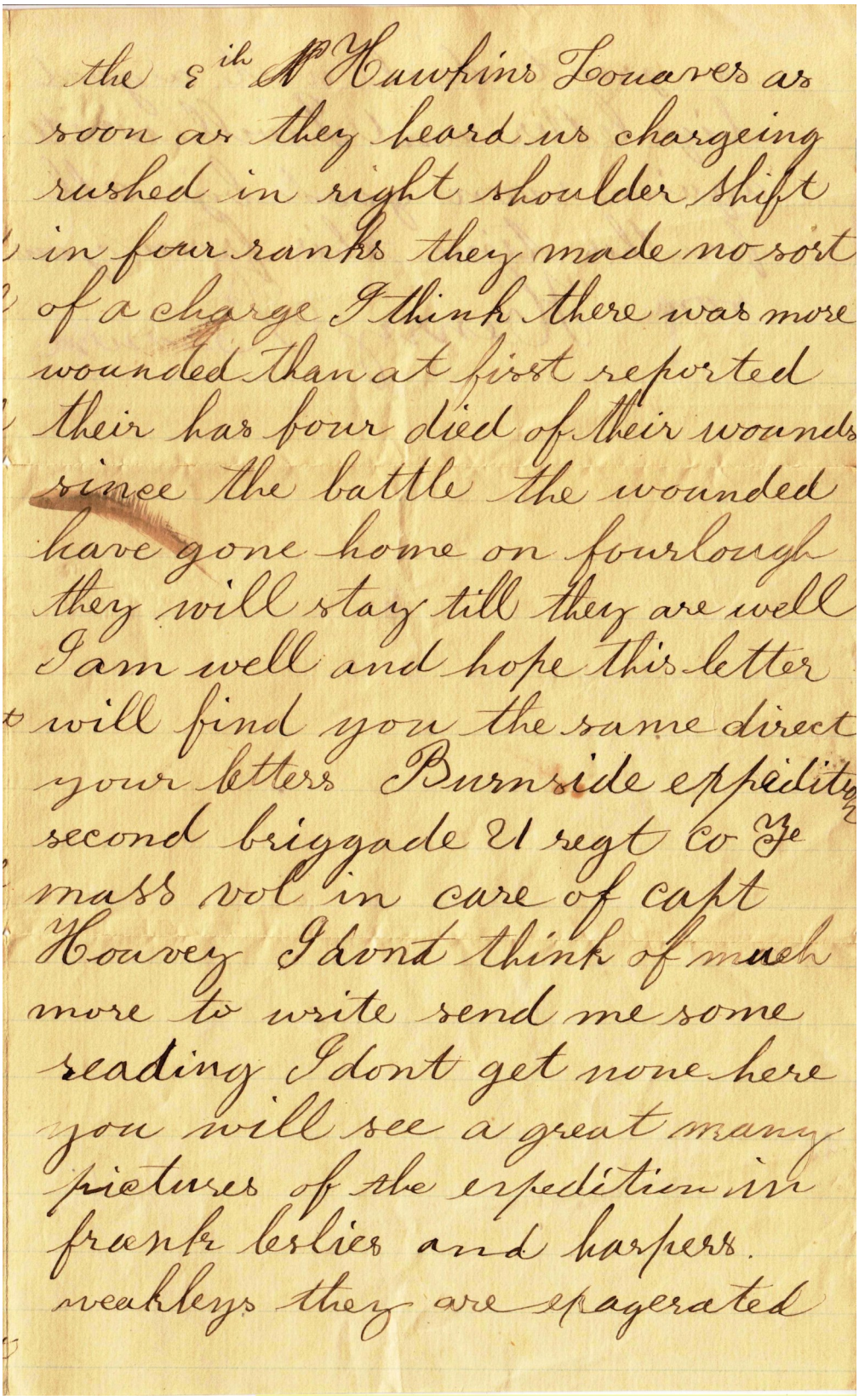
Dear Parents I think it is most time to write to you again we came on bord the Northener night before last we had a pretty good time on Roanoke our leiut Col has resinged and the capt of our company first and second leiut of company K the capt of company K was discharged for disobeying orders the capt of company D had his leg broken with an grape shot the capt of company G has gone home on a furlough he had a shock on palsy he will probily never come back their places have been filed by under oficers leiut Huvoy is our capt direct your Huvey letters in his name

March 6, 1862 (1862.03.06) Page 1, Roanoke Island, NC



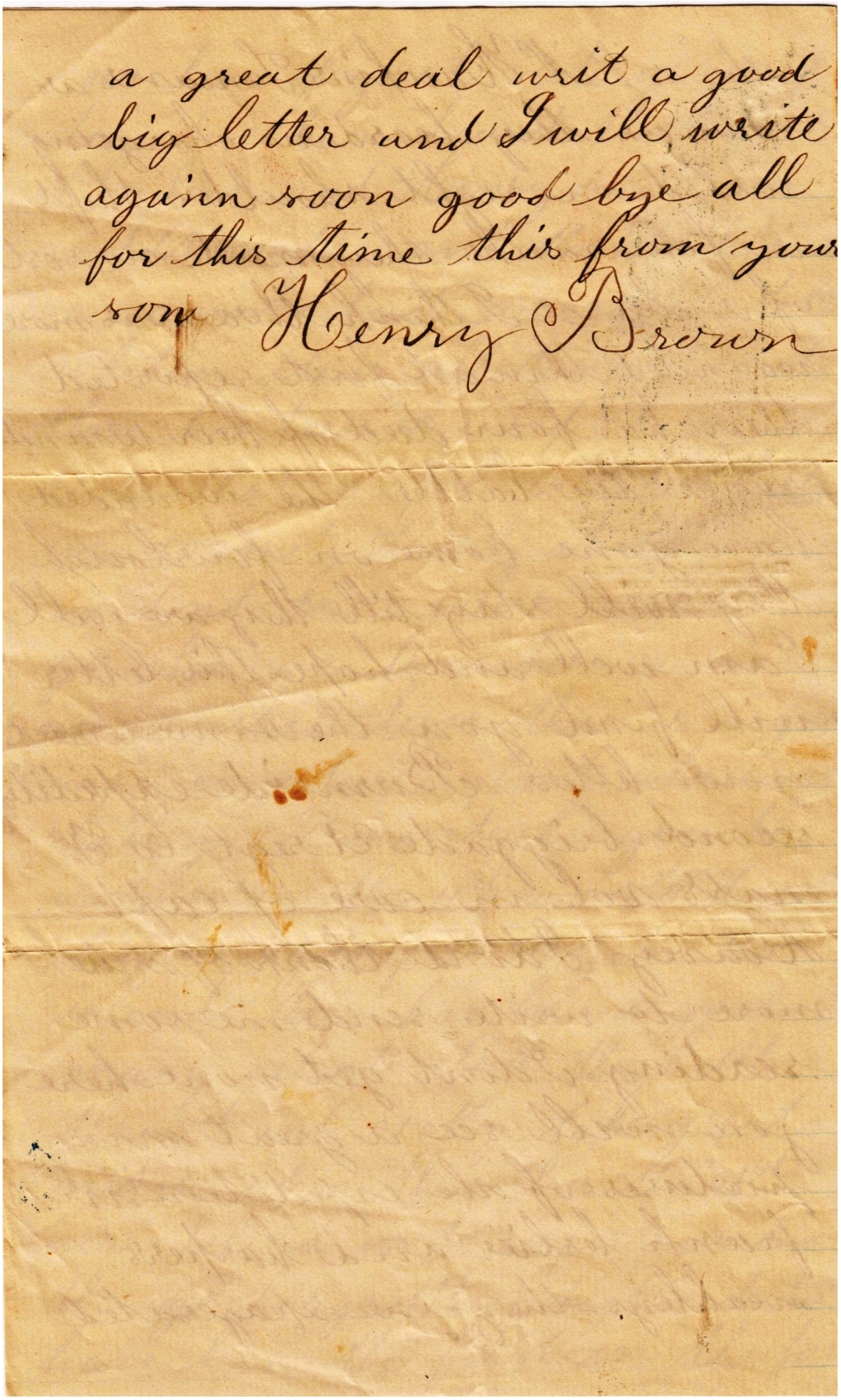
we hear of great victorys every day / we have heard that fort Donilson and Henry are taken and Memphis and Nashville and savannah but we cant tell whether it is all true or not there has been a report several times that norfork is taken but we do not think it is true we dont know where we shall go when we leave here or when we we shall leave there is a great many conjectures about where we shall go Burnside has gone to washington the 11th com^a 6th N H 8th N. J are agoing to stay on the island there has been a great many reports about the battle the 9th and 51 N y take great credate upon themselves the 51st were behind us to suport us in the charge they pretend to have been the first in the fort

March 6, 1862 (1862.03.06) Page 2, Roanoke Island, NC



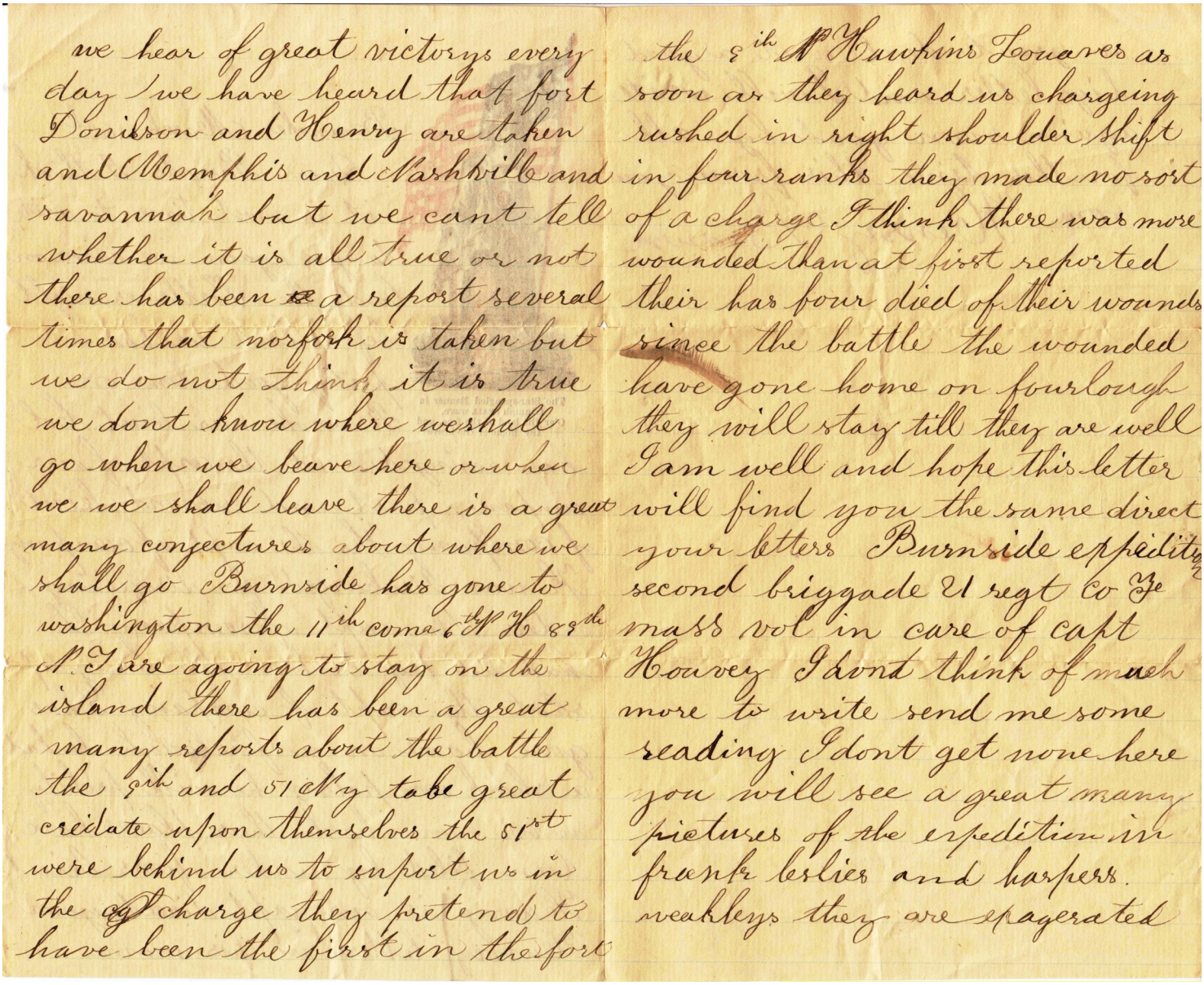
the 8th N Hawkins Zouaves as
soon as they heard us chargeing
rushed in right shoulder shift
in four ranks they made no sort
of a charge I think there was more
wounded than at first reported
their has four died of their wounds
since the battle the wounded
have gone home on fourlough
they will stay till they are well
I am well and hope this letter
will find you the same direct
your letters Burnside expidition
second brigade 21 regt co E
mass vol in care of capt
Hovey I dont think of much
more to write send me some
reading I dont get none here
you will see a great many
pictures of the expedition in
frank leslies and harpers.
weeklys they are exagerated

March 6, 1862 (1862.03.06) Page 3, Roanoke Island, NC



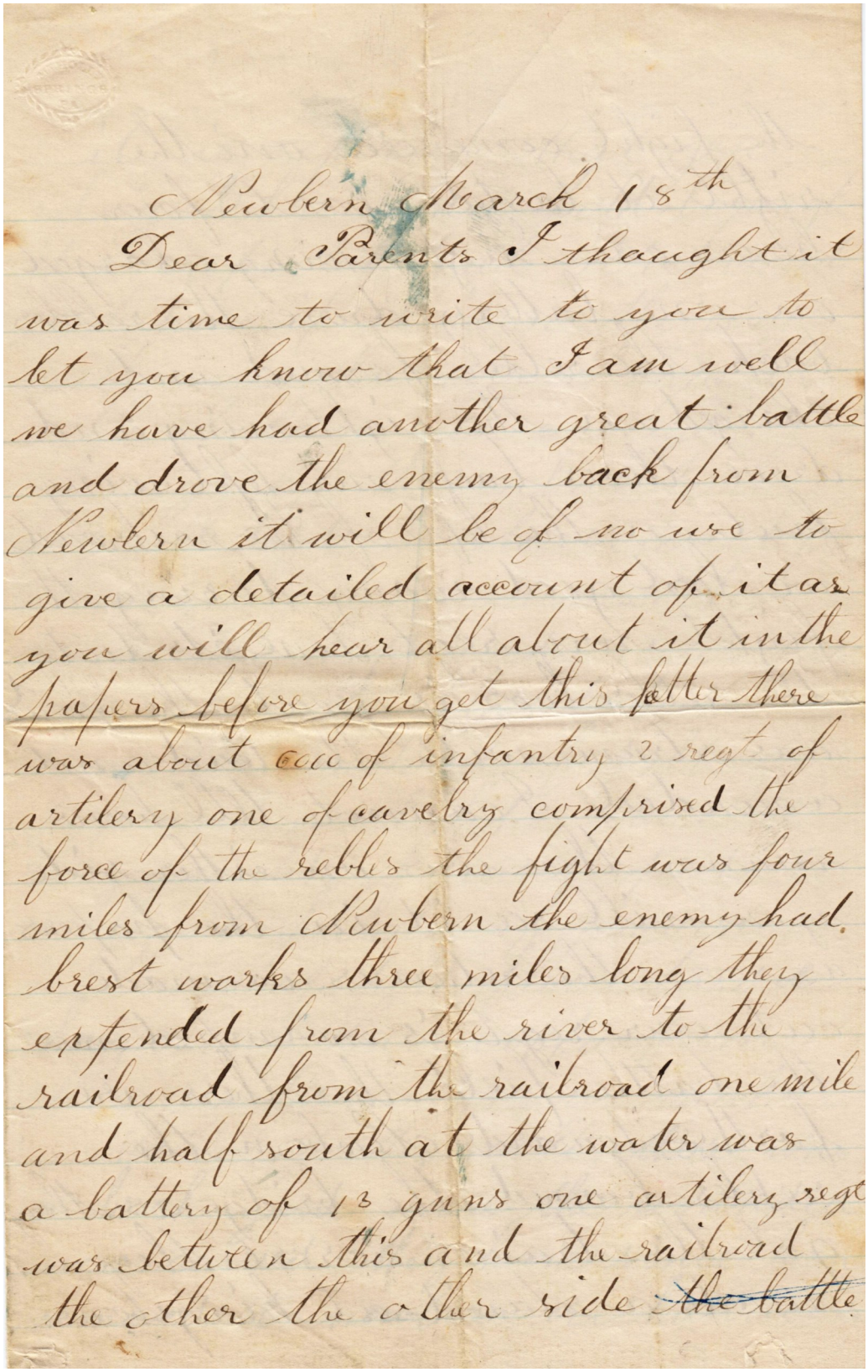
a great deal writ a good
big letter and I will write
again soon good bye all
for this time this from your
son Henry Brown

March 6, 1862 (1862.03.06) Page 4, Roanoke Island, NC



we hear of great victorys every day we have heard that fort Donilson and Henry are taken and Memphis and Nashville and savannah but we cant tell whether it is all true or not there has been a report several times that norfork is taken but we do not think it is true we dont know where we shall go when we leave here or when we we shall leave there is a great many conjectures about where we shall go Burnside has gone to washington the 11th comd 6th N H 8th N J are agoing to stay on the island there has been a great many reports about the battle the 9th and 51 N y take great credate upon themselves the 51st were behind us to suport us in the charge they pretend to have been the first in the fort the 8th N Hawkins Zouaves as soon as they heard us chargeing rushed in right shoulder shift in four ranks they made no sort of a charge I think there was more wounded than at first reported their has four died of their wounds since the battle the wounded have gone home on fourlough they will stay till they are well I am well and hope this letter will find you the same direct your letters Burnside expeidity second brigade 21 regt co E mass vol in care of capt Hovey I dont think of much more to write send me some reading I dont get none here you will see a great many pictures of the expedition in frank leslies and harpers weakleys they are exagerated

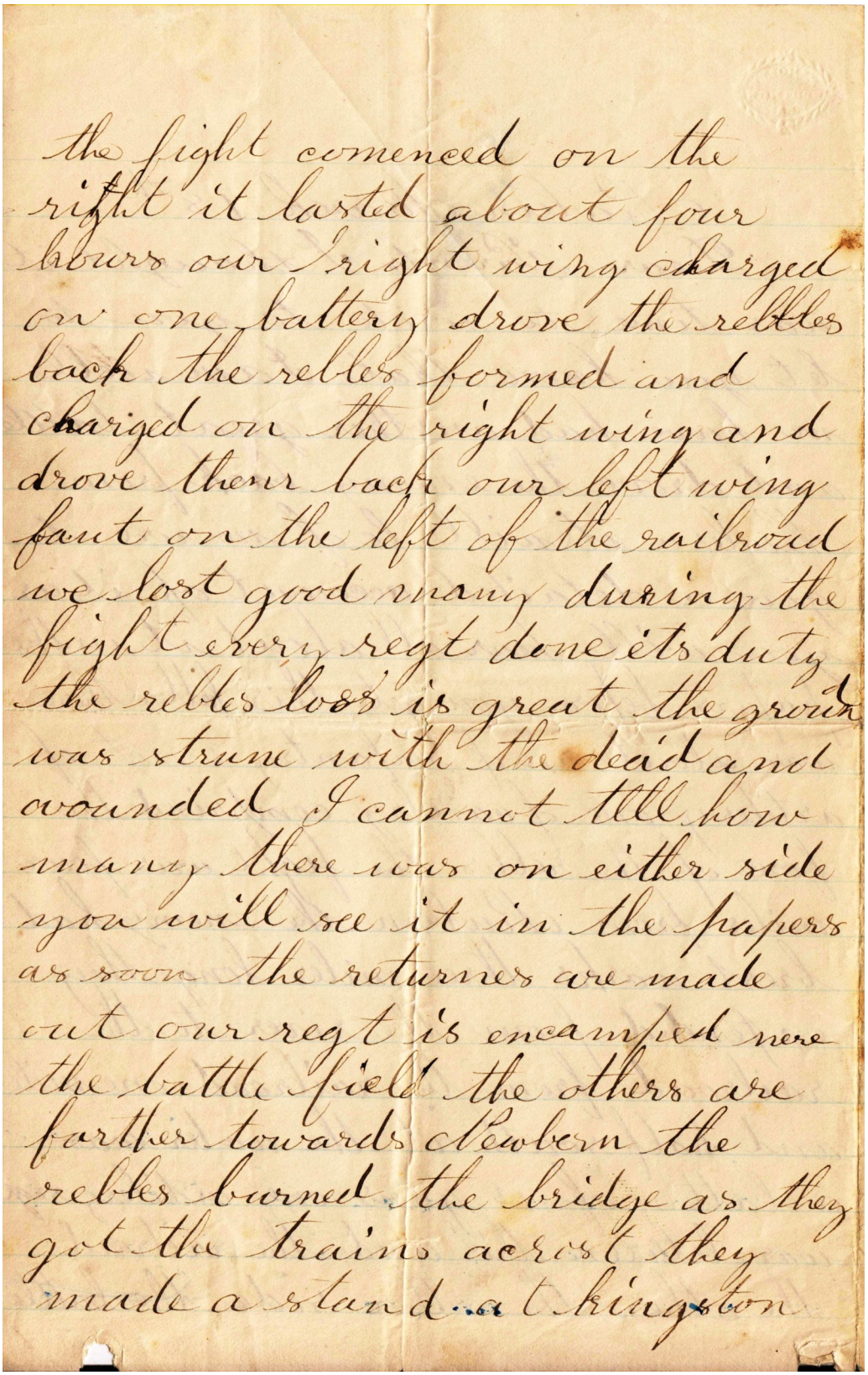
February 6, 1862 (1862.03.06) Pages 2 and 3, Roanoke Island, NC



Newbern March 18th

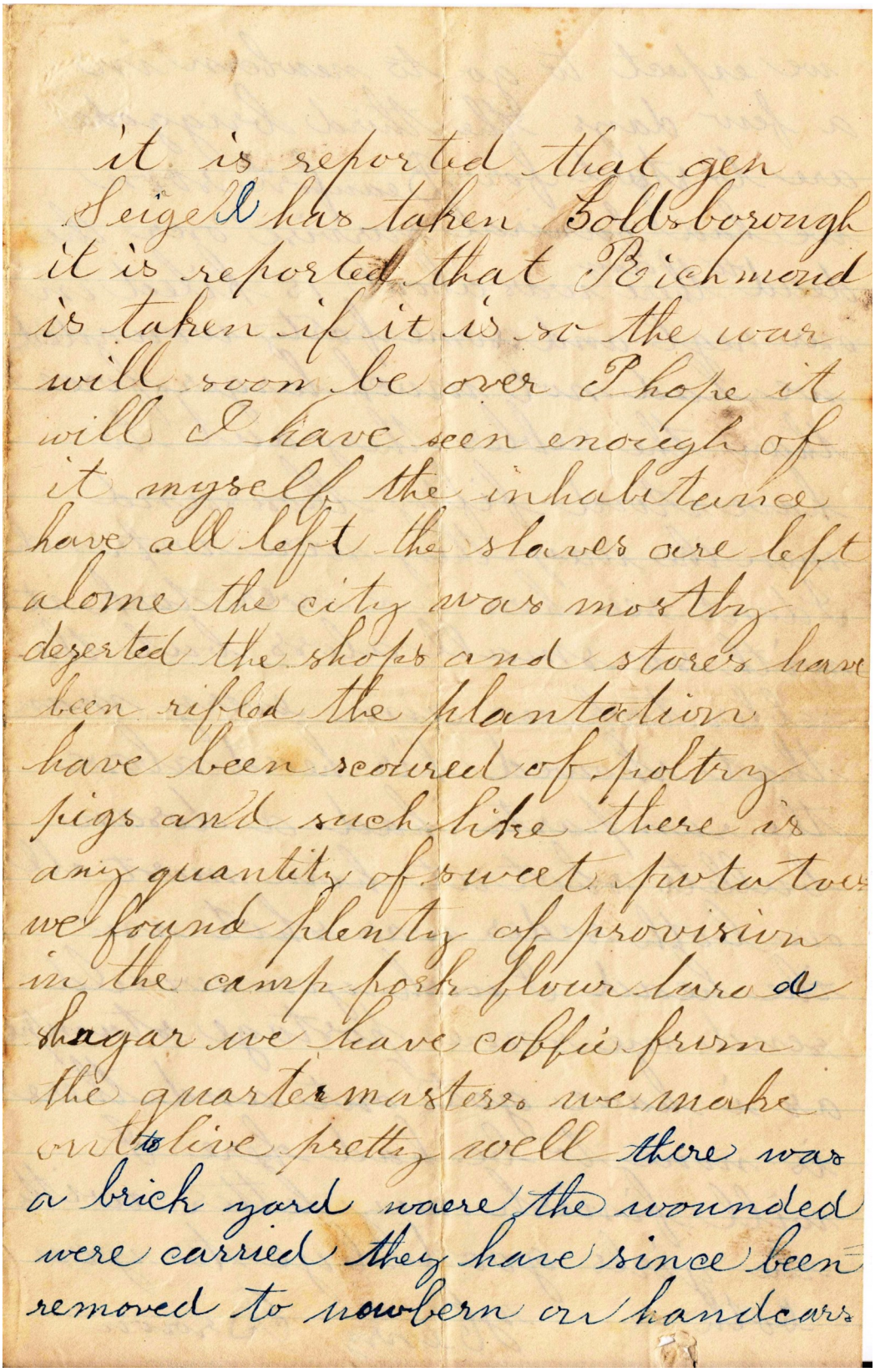
Dear Parents I thought it was time to write to you to let you know that I am well we have had another great battle and drove the enemy back from Newbern it will be of no use to give a detailed account of it as you will hear all about it in the papers before you get this letter there was about 6000 of infantry 2 regt of artilery one of cavelry comprised the force of the rebles the fight was four miles from Newbern the enemy had brest works three miles long they extended from the river to the railroad from the railroad one mile and half south at the water was a battery of 13 guns one artilery regt was between this and the railroad the other the other side ~~the battle~~

March 18, 1862 (1862.03.18) Page 1, Newbern, NC



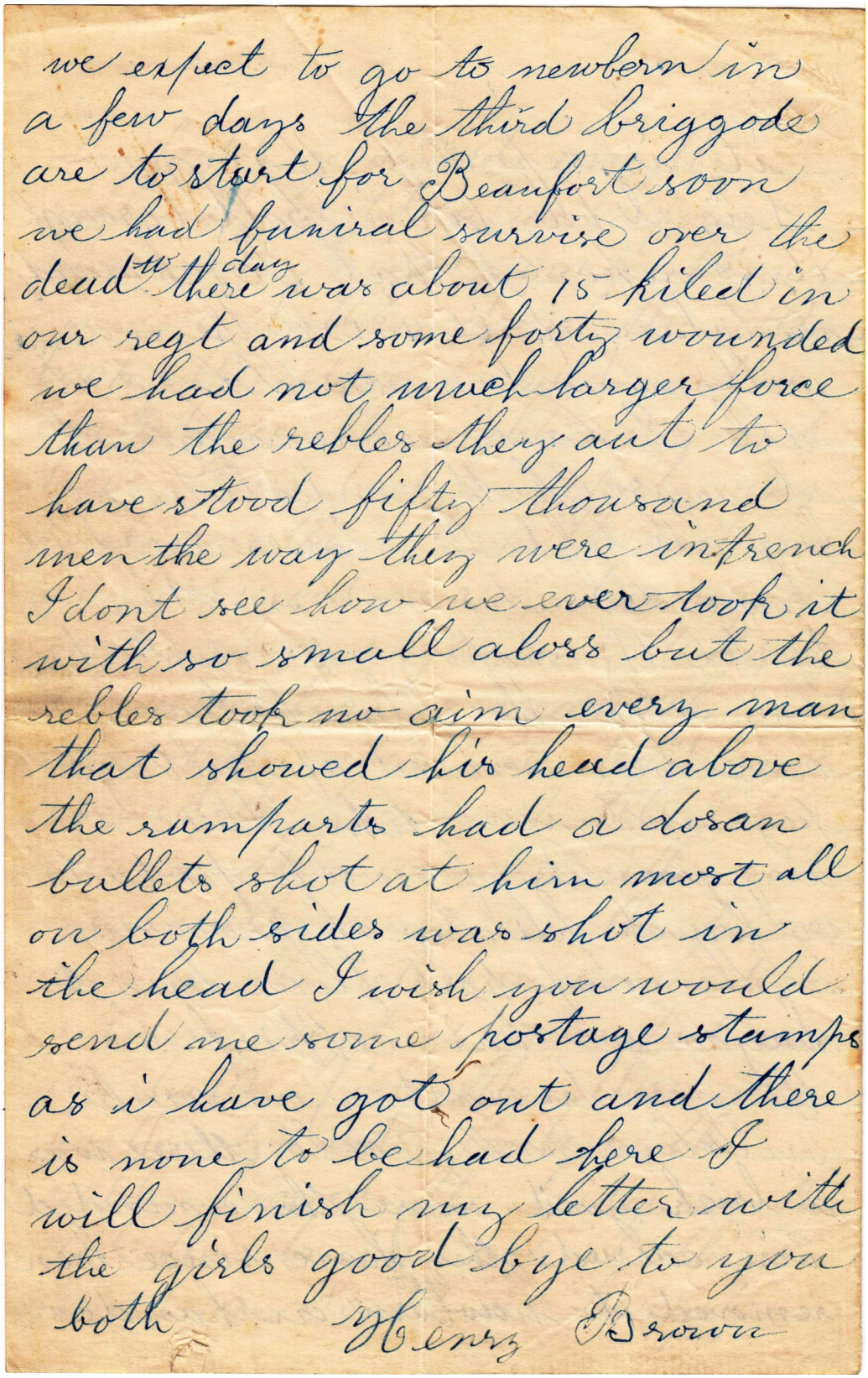
the fight comenced on the
right it lasted about four
hours our right wing charged
on one battery drove the rebbles
back the rebles formed and
chariged on the right wing and
drove them back our left wing
fant on the left of the railroad
we lost good many during the
fight every regt done its duty
the rebles loss is great the ground
was strune with the deid and
wounded I cannot tell how
many there was on either side
you will see it in the papers
as soon the returnes are made
out our regt is encamped near
the battle field the others are
farther towards Newbern the
rebles burned the bridge as they
got the trains across they
made a stand at kingston

March 18, 1862 (1862.03.18) Page 2, Newbern, NC



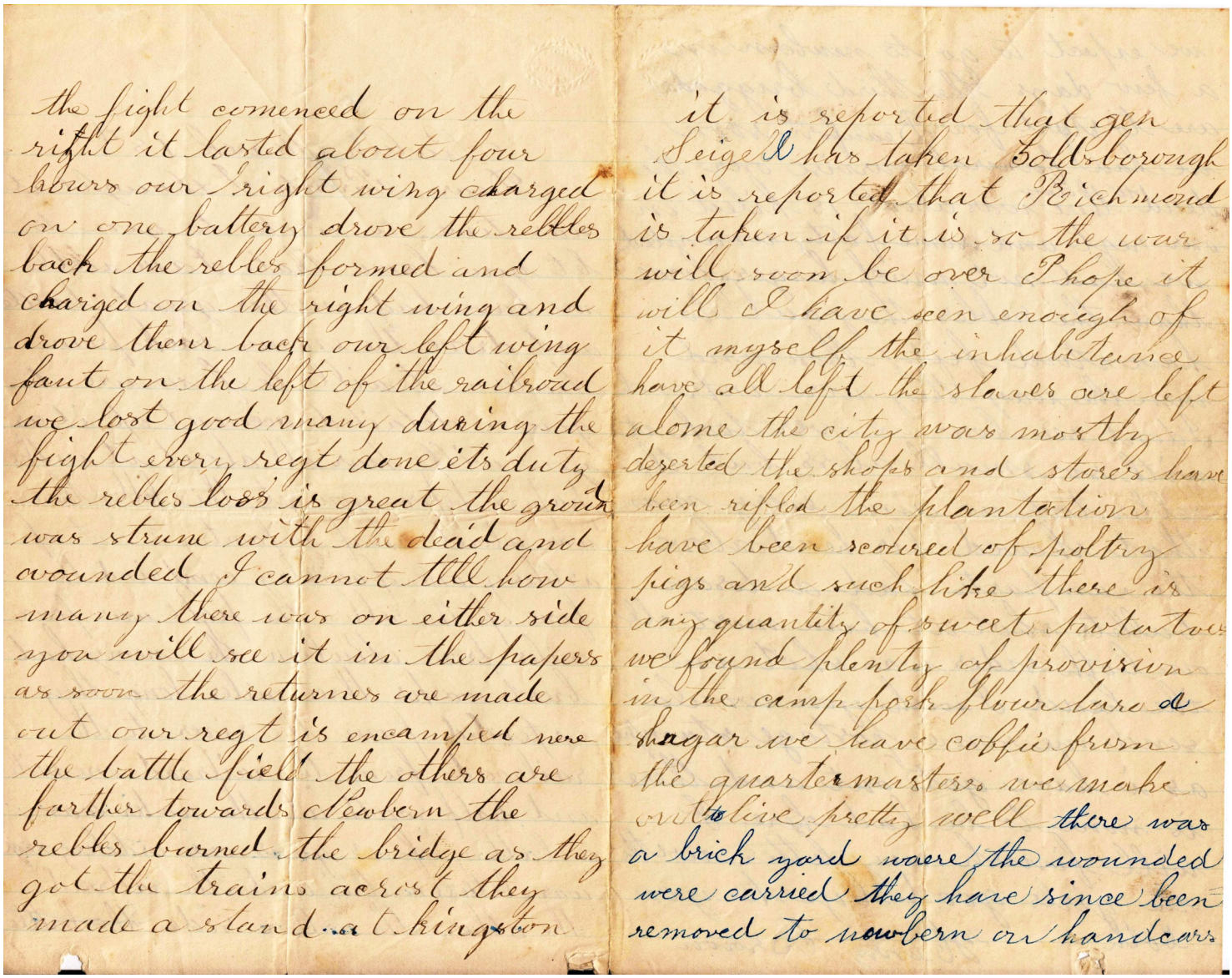
it is reported that gen
Seigel has taken Goldsborough
it is reported that Richmond
is taken if it is so the war
will soon be over I hope it
will I have seen enough of
it myself the inhabitants
have all left the slaves are left
alone the city was mostly
deserted the shops and stores have
been rifled the plantation
have been scoured of poltry
pigs and such like there is
any quantity of sweet potatoes
we found plenty of provision
in the camp pork flour lard &
sugar we have coffee from
the quartermasters we make
out to live pretty well there was
a brick yard where the wounded
were carried they have since been
removed to newbern on handcars

March 18, 1862 (1862.03.18) Page 3, Newbern, NC



we expect to go to newbern in
a few days the third briggode
are to start for Beaufort soon
we had funiral survice over the
dead the day there was about 15 kiled in
our regt and some forty wounded
we had not much larger force
than the rebles they ant to
have stood fifty thousand
men the way they were intrench
I dont see how we ever took it
with so small aloss but the
rebles took no aim every man
that showed his head above
the rumparts had a dosan
bullets shot at him most all
on both sides was shot in
the head I wish you would
send me some postage stamps
as i have got out and there
is none to be had here I
will finish my letter with
the girls good bye to you
both Henry Brown

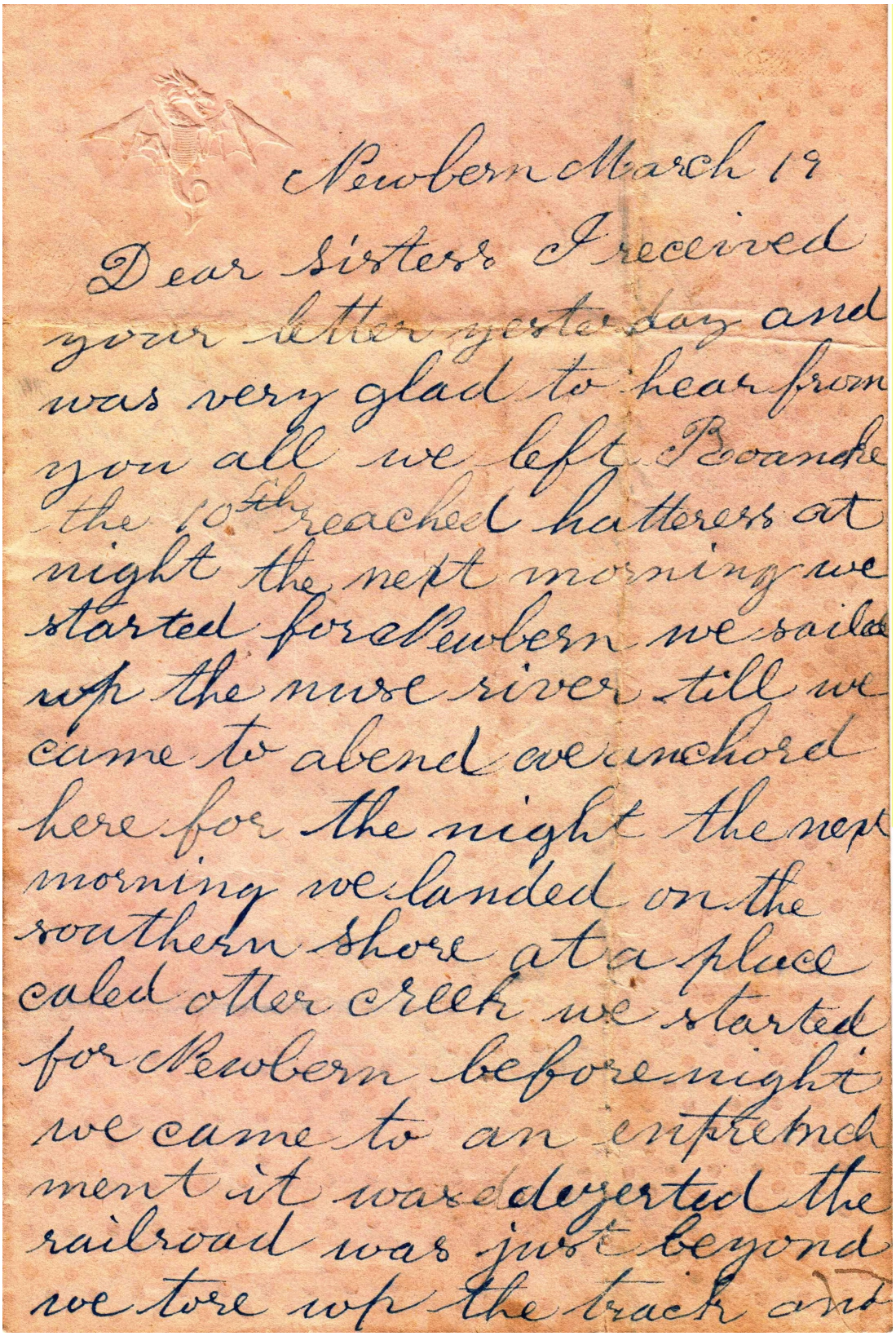
March 18, 1862 (1862.03.18) Page 4, Newbern, NC



the fight comenced on the right it lasted about four hours our right wing charged on one battery drove the rebles back the rebles formed and chariged on the right wing and drove them back our left wing faut on the left of the railroad we lost good many during the fight every regt done its duty the rebles loss is great the ground was strum with the dead and wounded I cannot tell how many there was on either side you will see it in the papers as soon the returnes are made out our regt is encamped near the battle field the others are farther towards Newbern the rebles burned the bridge as they got the trains across they made a stand at kingston

it is reported that gen Seigel has taken Goldsborough it is reported that Richmond is taken if it is so the war will soon be over I hope it will I have seen enough of it myself the inhabitance have all left the slaves are left alone the city was mostly deserted the shops and stores have been rifled the plantation have been scoured of poltry pigs and such like there is any quantity of sweet potatoes we found plenty of provision in the camp pork flour bacon & sugar we have coffie from the quartermasters we make out to live pretty well there was a brick yard where the wounded were carried they have since been removed to newbern on handcars

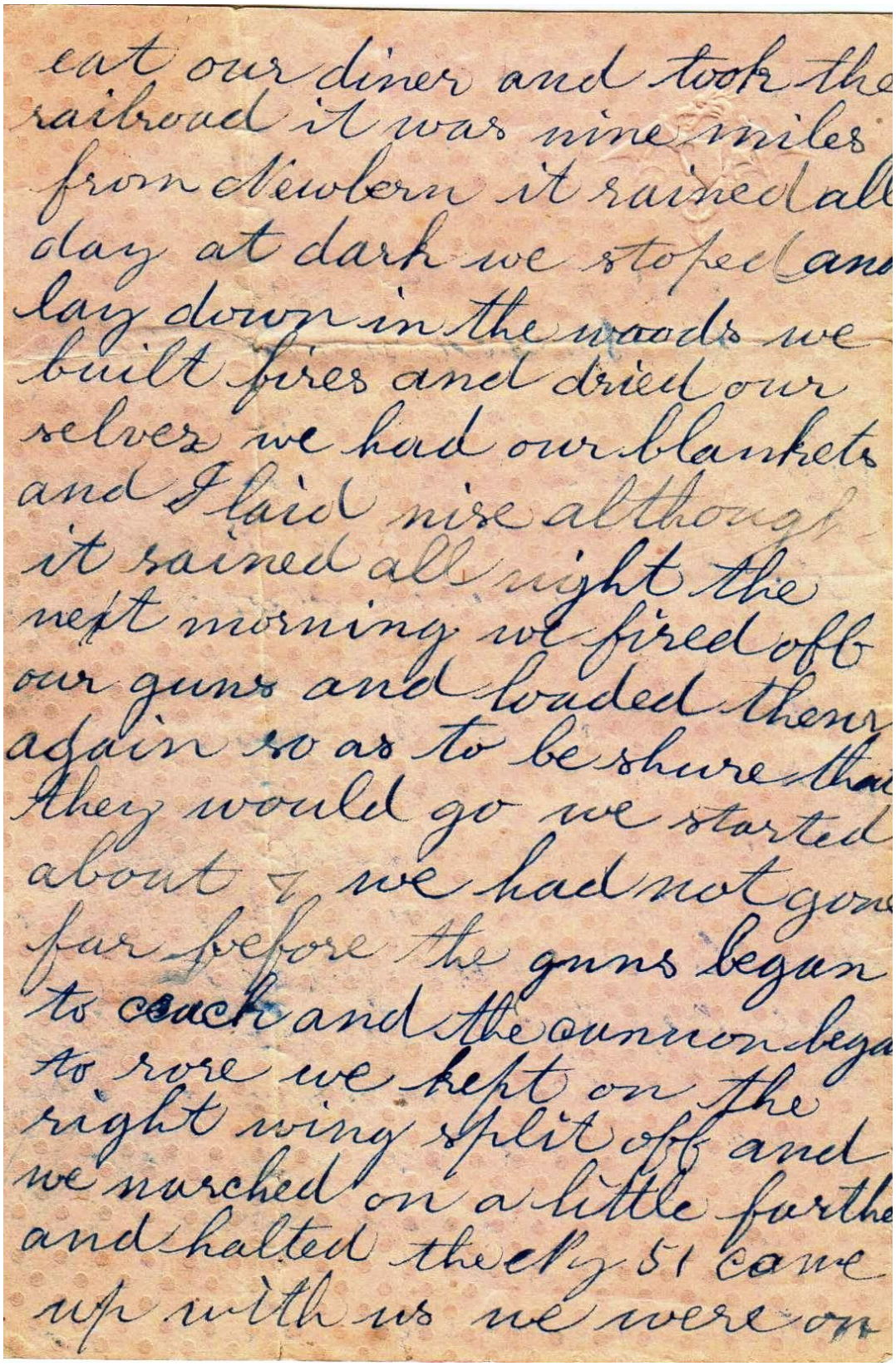
March 18, 1862 (1862.03.18) Pages 2 and 3, Newbern, NC



Newbern March 19

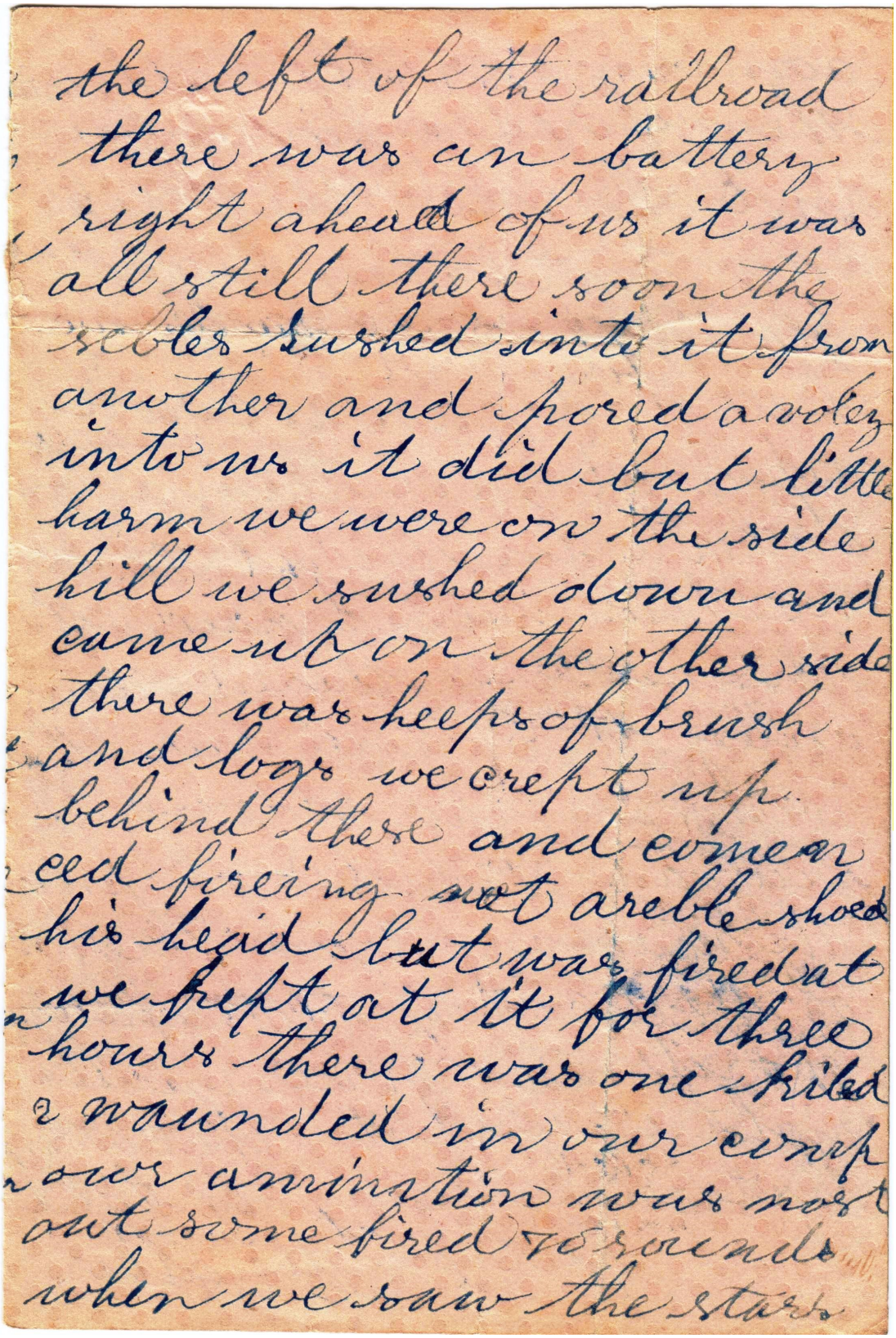
Dear Sisters I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you all we left Roanoke the 10th reached hatteras at night the next morning we started for Newbern we sailed up the neuse river till we came to abend we anchored here for the night the next morning we landed on the southern shore at a place caled otter creek we started for Newbern before night we came to an entrench ment it was deserted the railroad was just beyond we tore up the track and

March 19, 1862 (1862.03.19) Page 1, Newbern, NC



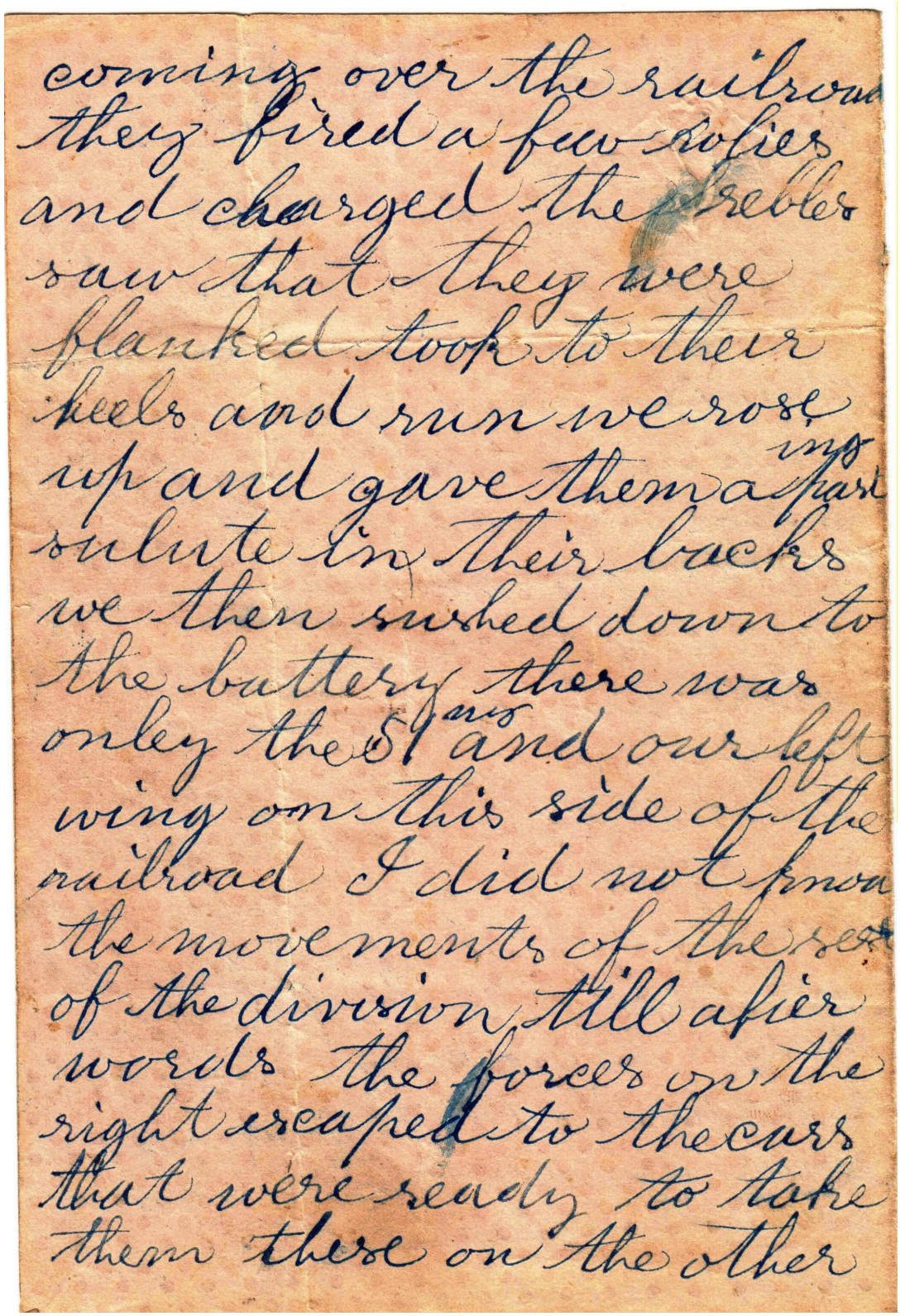
eat our diner and took the
railroad it was nine miles
from Newbern it rained all
day at dark we stoped and
lay down in the woods we
built fires and dried our
selves we had our blankets
and I laid nise although
it rained all night the
nept morning we fired off
our guns and loaded them
again so as to be shure that
they would go we started
about 7 we had not gone
far before the guns began
to crack and the cannon began
to roar we kept on the
right wing split off and
we marched on a little further
and halted the 51 came
up with us we were on

March 19, 1862 (1862.03.19) Page 2, Newbern, NC



the left of the railroad
there was an battery
right ahead of us it was
all still there soon the
rebles rushed into it from
another and pored a voley
into us it did but little
harm we were on the side
hill we rushed down and
came up on the other side
there was heeps of brush
and logs we crept up
behind these and comenc
ed fireing not a reble shoed
his head but was fired at
we kept at it for three
hours there was one killed
2 waunded in our comp
our ammintion was most
out some fired 70 rounds
when we saw the stars

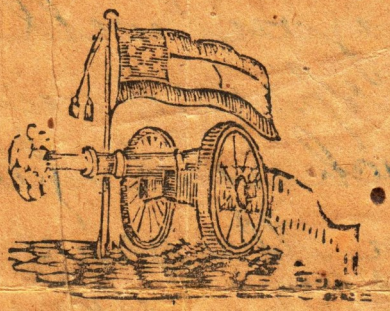
March 19, 1862 (1862.03.19) Page 3, Newbern, NC



coming over the railroad
they fired a few volies
and charged the rebles
saw that they were
flanked took to their
heels and run we rose
up and gave them a parting
volute in their backs
we then rushed down to
the battery there was
onley the 51st and our left
wing on this side of the
railroad I did not know
the movements of the rest
of the division till afterwards the forces on the
right escaped to the cars
that were ready to take
them these on the other

March 19, 1862 (1862.03.19) Page 4, Newbern, NC

Manufactured by W. & J. BONITZ, Goldsboro, N. C.



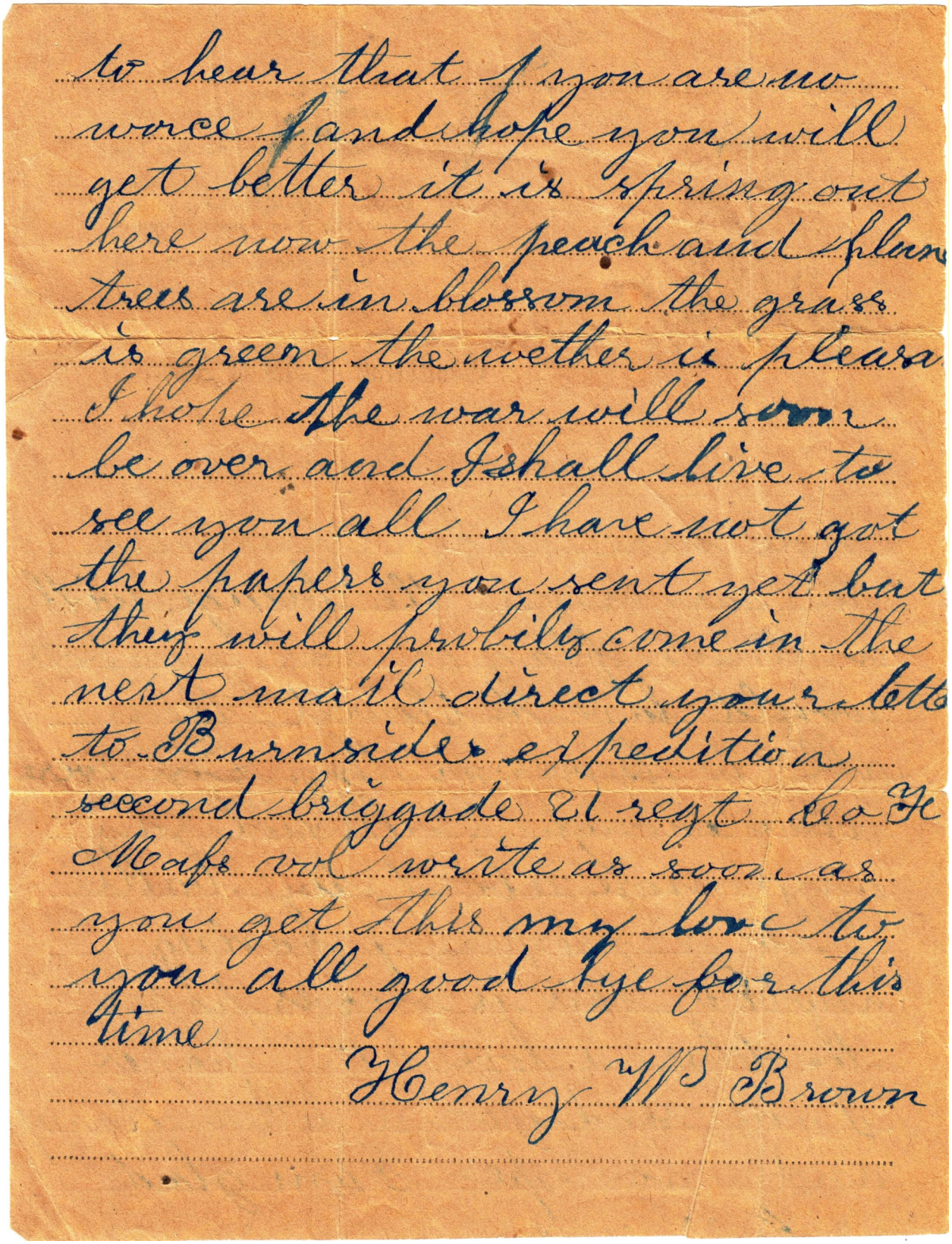
Bright Banner of Freedom with pride I unfurl thee;
Fair Flag of my country with love I behold thee,
Gleaming above us in freshness and youth,
Emblem of Liberty, Symbol of truth;
For the Flag of my country in triumph shall wave,
O'er the Southerner's Home and the Southerner's Grave

Confederate States of America.

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side were taken Prisoners the cars crosed the bridge with a union flag or our gunboats would have blowed them all to peaces as they had were near enough I will not say any more about the battle there is prospect of having another this is secess paper the other is love letter paper I will send you a letter stamp and envelope I am glad

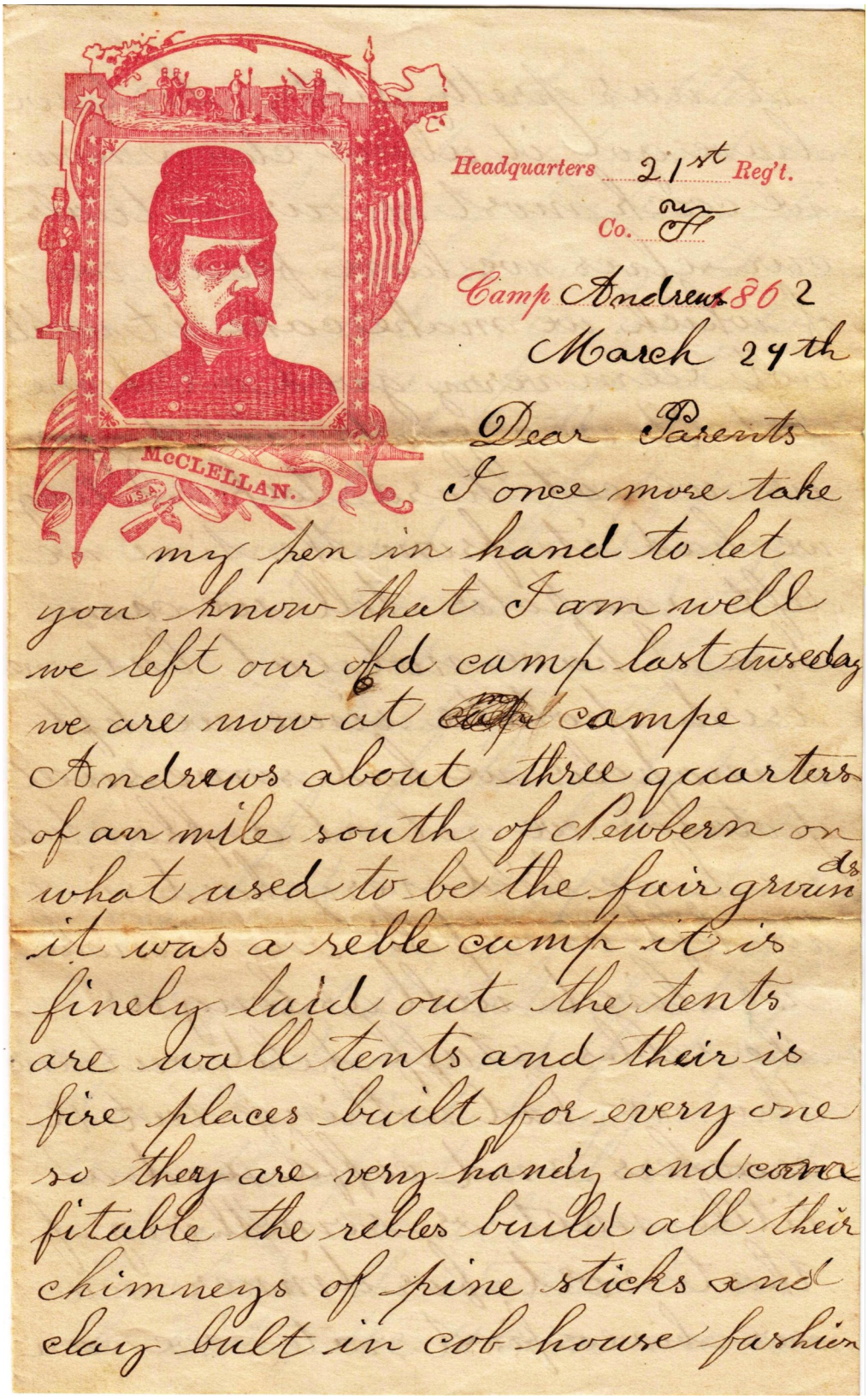
March 19, 1862 (1862.03.19) Page 5, Newbern, NC



to hear that I you are no
worse I and hope you will
get better it is spring out
here now the peach and plum
trees are in blossom the grass
is green the wether is pleas
I hope the war will soon
be over and I shall live to
see you all I have not got
the papers you sent yet but
they will probily come in the
next mail direct your lett
to Burnsides expedition
second brigade 21 regt Co E
Mabe you write as soon as
you get this my love to
you all good bye for this
time

Henry W B Brown

March 19, 1862 (1862.03.19) Page 6, Newbern, NC

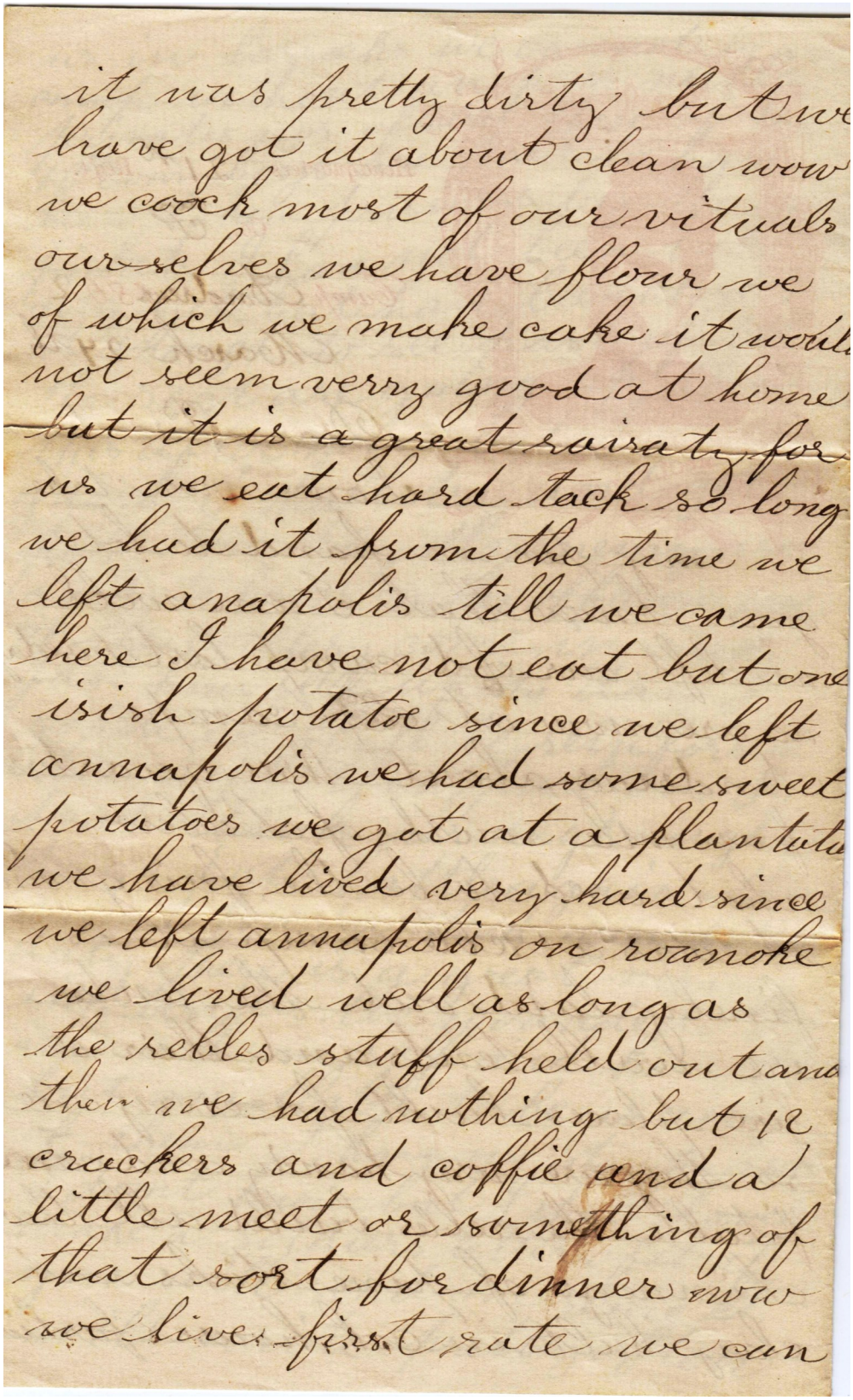


Headquarters 21st Reg't.
Co. H

Camp Andrews 1862
March 24th

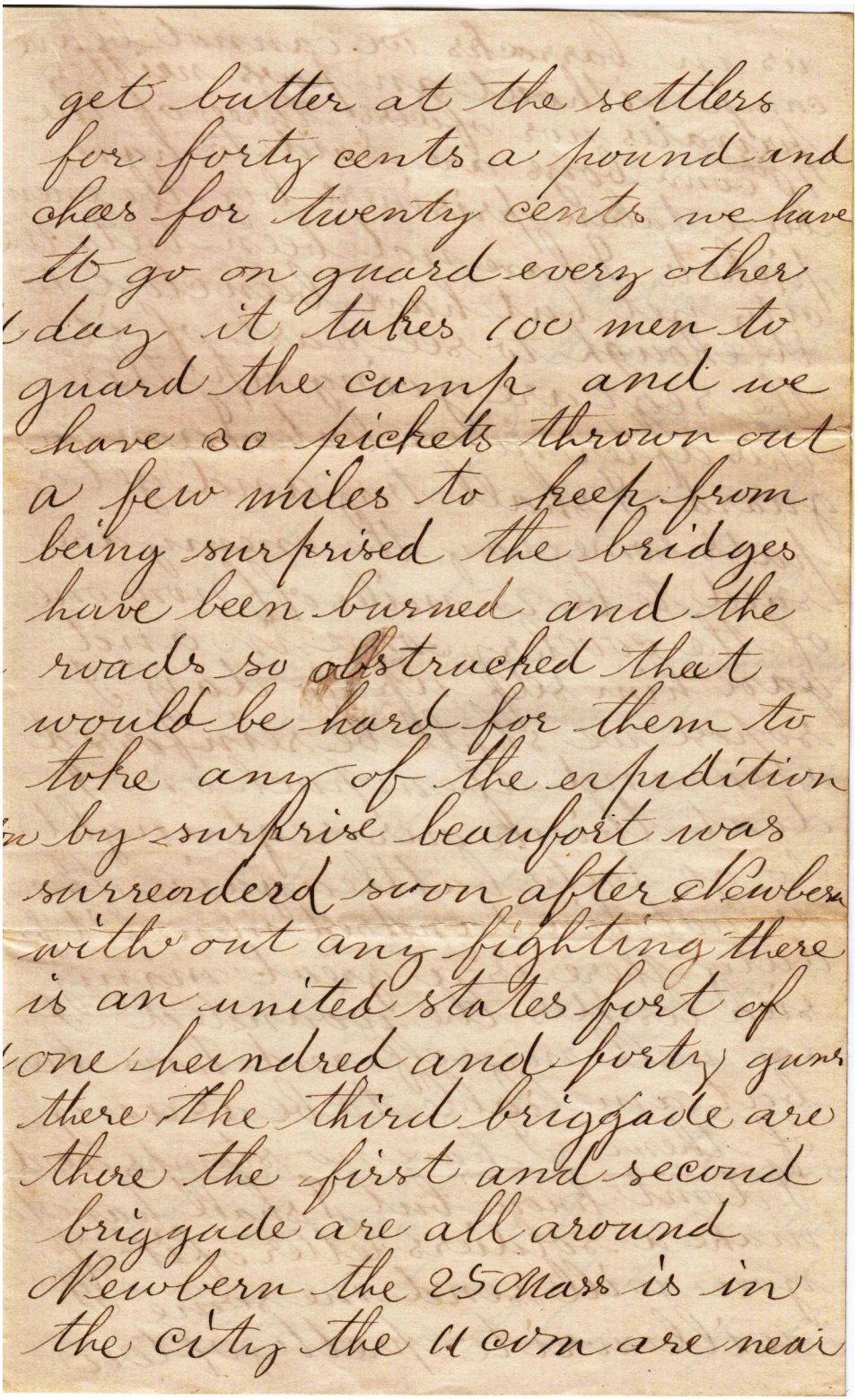
Dear Parents
I once more take
my pen in hand to let
you know that I am well
we left our old camp last tuesday
we are now at camp
Andrews about three quarters
of an mile south of Newbern on
what used to be the fair grounds
it was a reble camp it is
finely laid out the tents
are wall tents and their is
fire places built for every one
so they are very handy and comfortable the rebles build all their
chimneys of pine sticks and
clay built in cob house fashion

March 24, 1862 (1862.03.24) Page 1, Camp Andrews



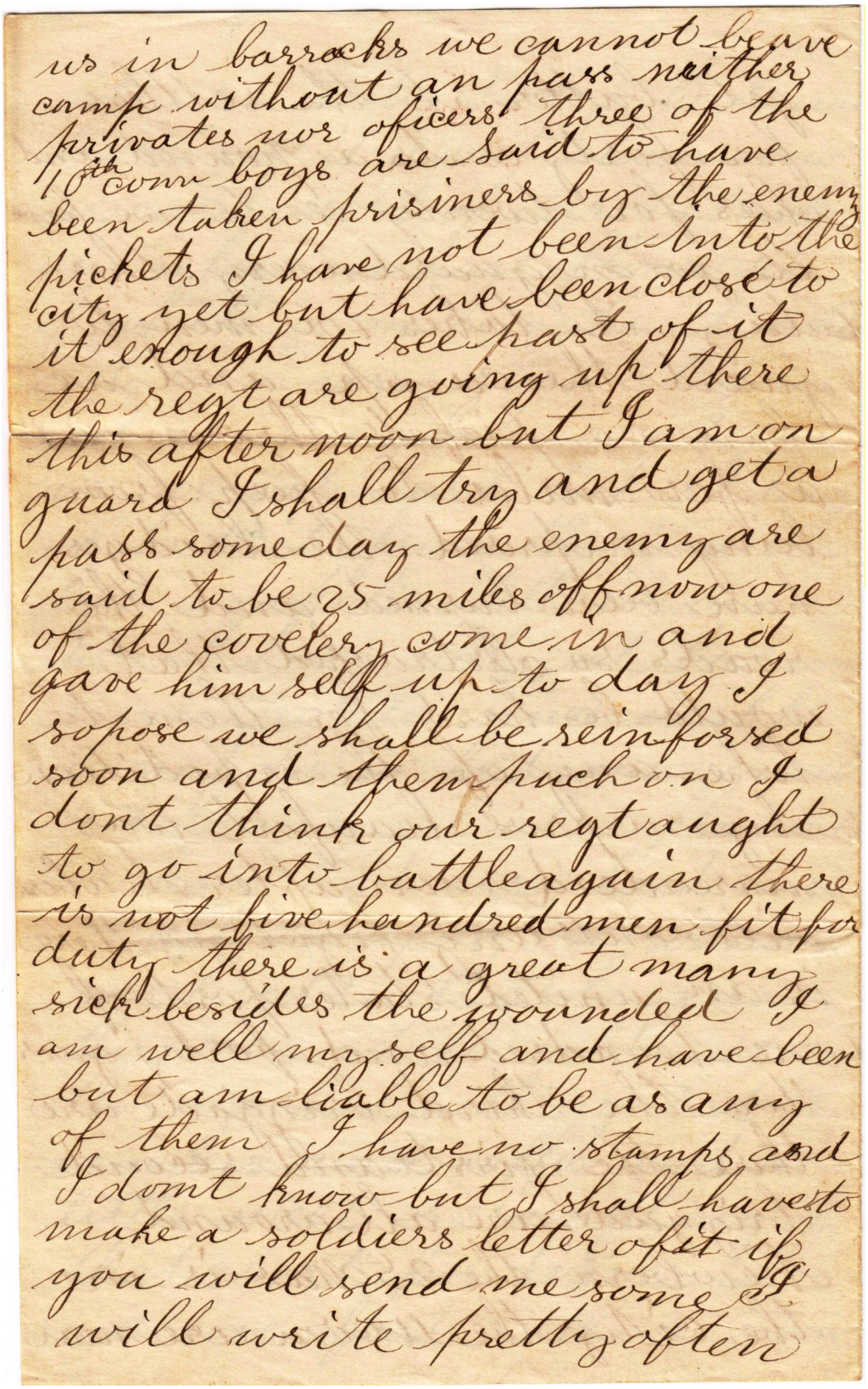
it was pretty dirty but we
have got it about clean now
we cook most of our vituals
ourselves we have flour we
of which we make cake it would
not seem verry good at home
but it is a great rairaty for
us we eat hard tack so long
we had it from the time we
left annapolis till we came
here I have not eat but one
irish potatoe since we left
annapolis we had some sweet
potatoes we got at a plantation
we have lived very hard since
we left annapolis on roanoke
we lived well as long as
the rebles stuff held out and
then we had nothing but 12
crackers and coffie and a
little meet or something of
that sort for dinner now
we live first rate we can

March 24, 1862 (1862.03.24) Page 2, Camp Andrews



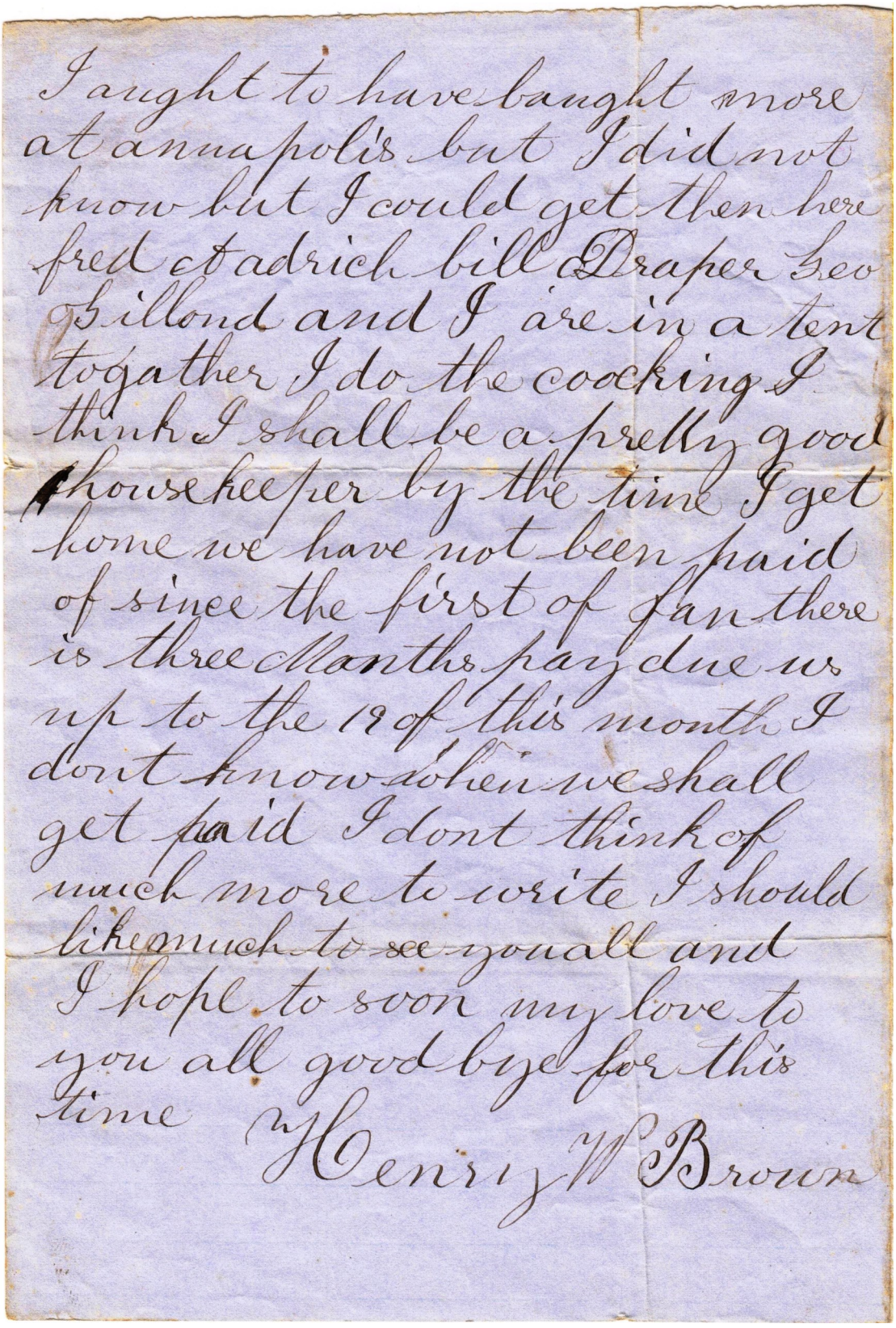
get butter at the settlers
for forty cents a pound and
cheas for twenty cents we have
to go on guard every other
day it takes 100 men to
guard the camp and we
have 30 pickets thrown out
a few miles to keep from
being surprised the bridges
have been burned and the
roads so obstructed that
would be hard for them to
take any of the expedition
by surprise beaufort was
surreonderd soon after Newbern
with out any fighting there
is an united states fort of
one hundred and forty guns
there the third briggade are
there the first and second
brigade are all around
Newbern the 25 Mass is in
the city the 11 com are near

March 24, 1862 (1862.03.24) Page 3, Camp Andrews



us in barracks we cannot leave
camp without an pass neither
privates nor oficers three of the
10th comp boys are said to have
been taken prisiners by the enemy
pickets I have not been into the
city yet but have been close to
it enough to see part of it
the regt are going up there
this after noon but I am on
guard I shall try and get a
pass some day the enemy are
said to be 25 miles off now one
of the cavelery come in and
gave him self up to day I
sopose we shall be reinforsed
soon and then push on I
dont think our regt aught
to go into battle again there
is not five hundred men fit for
duty there is a great many
sick besides the wounded I
am well my self and have been
but am liable to be as any
of them I have no stamps and
I dont know but I shall have to
make a soldiers letter of it if
you will send me some I
will write pretty often

March 24, 1862 (1862.03.24) Page 4, Camp Andrews



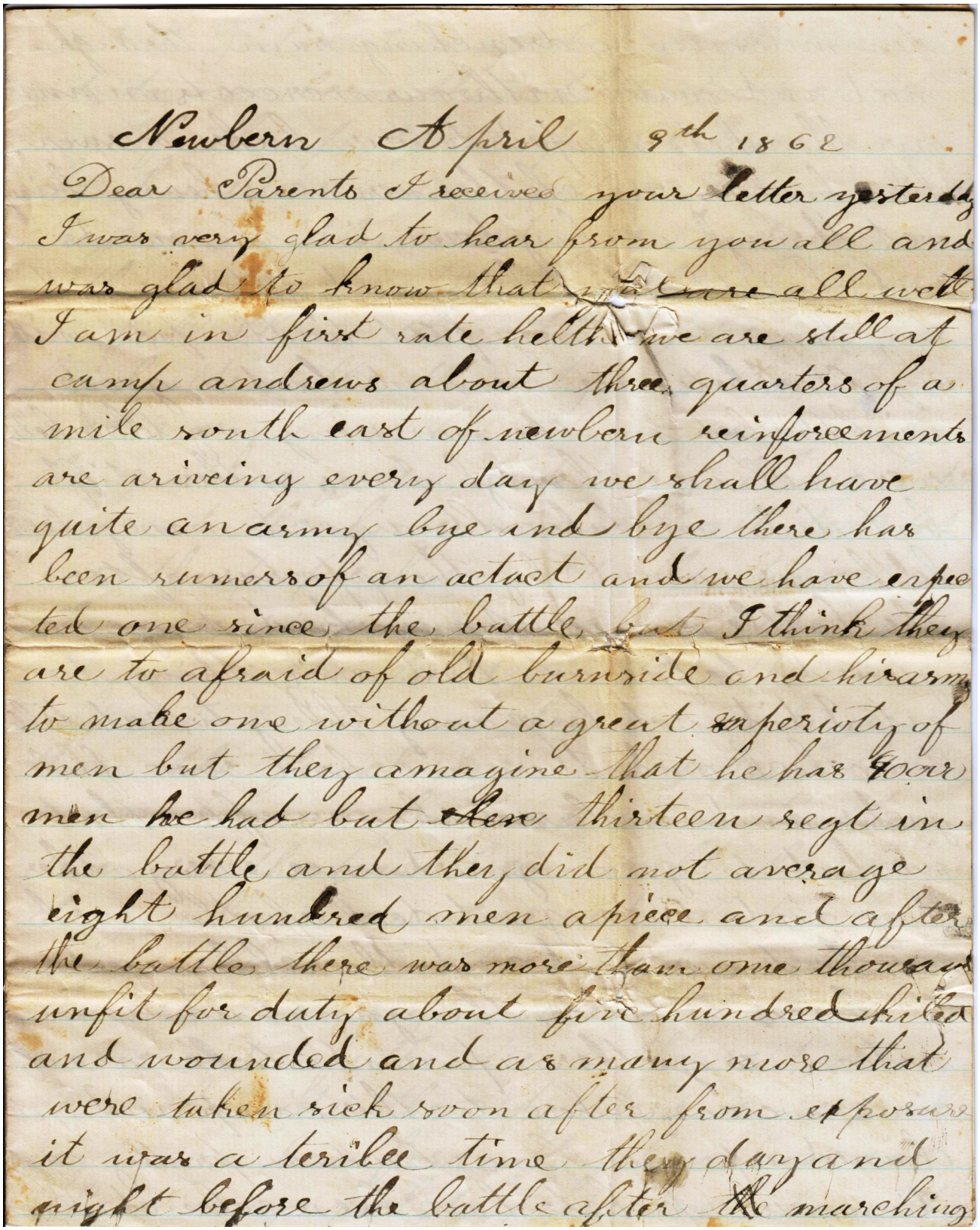
I aught to have baught more at annapolis but I did not know but I could get them here fred & adrich bill Draper Geo Billond and I are in a tent togather I do the cooking I think I shall be a prelty good housekeeper by the time I get home we have not been paid of since the first of Jan there is three Manths pay due us up to the 1st of this month I dont know when we shall get paid I dont think of much more to write I should like much to see you all and I hope to soon my love to you all good bye for this time

Henry W Brown

March 24, 1862 (1862.03.24) Page 5, Camp Andrews



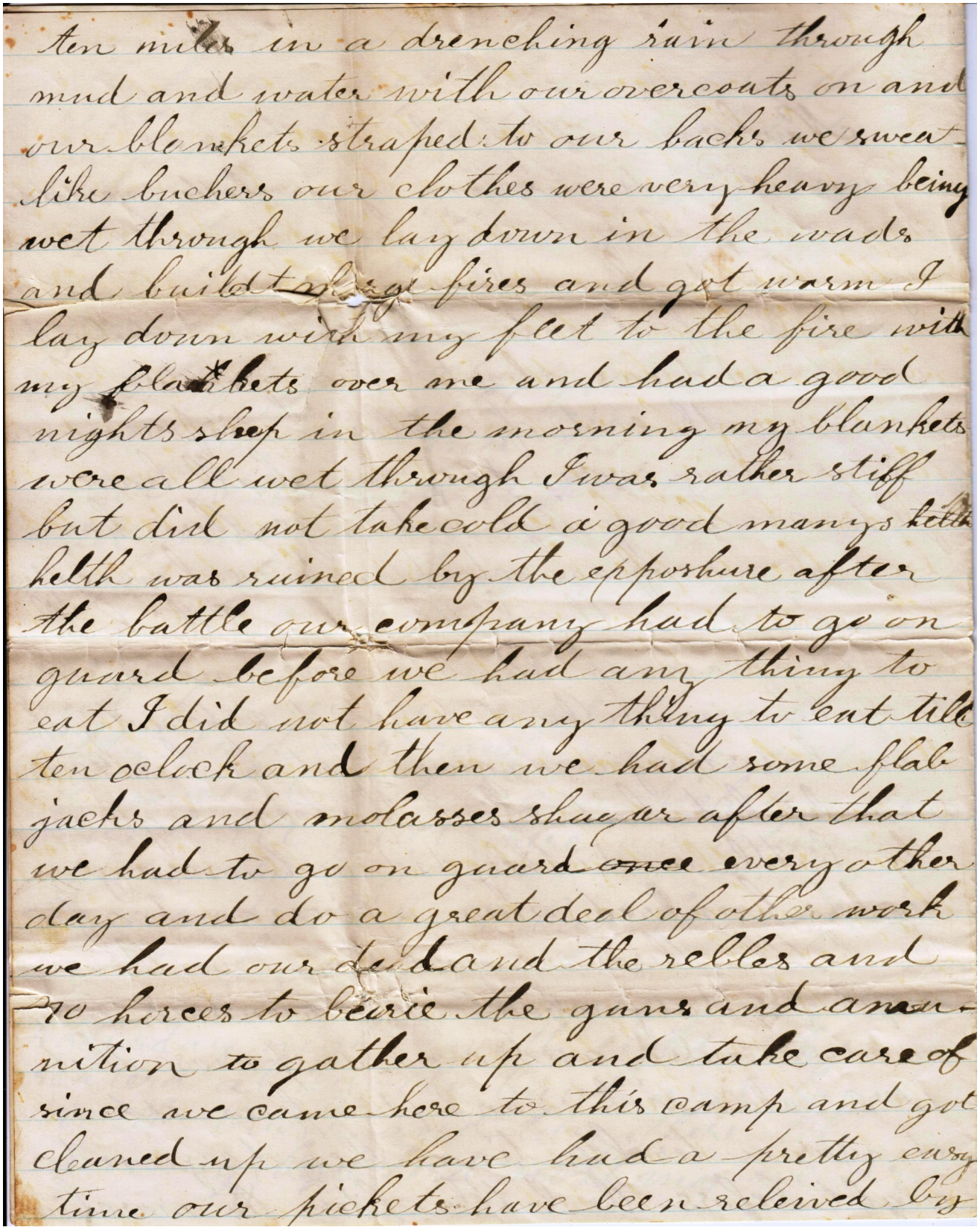
March 24, 1862 (1862.03.24) Envelope, Camp Andrews



Newbern April 9th 1862

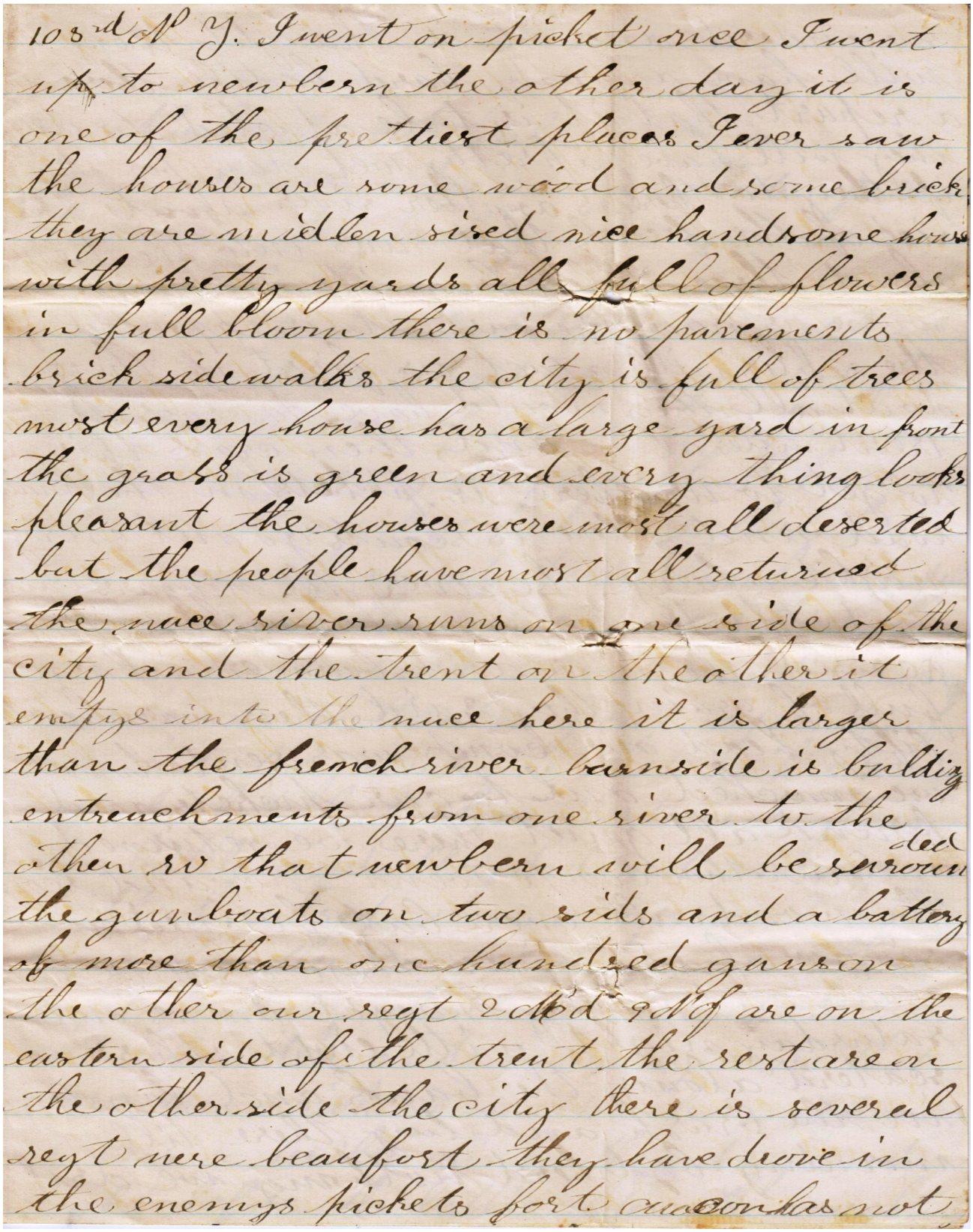
Dear Parents I received your letter yesterday I was very glad to hear from you all and was glad to know that ~~you~~ were all well I am in first rate helth we are still at camp andrews about three quarters of a mile south east of newbern reinforcements are arriving every day we shall have quite an army bye and bye there has been rumers of an attact and we have expected one since the battle but I think they are to afraid of old burnside and his army to make one without a great superiority of men but they amagine that he has four men he had but there thirteen regt in the battle and they did not average eight hundred men a piece and after the battle there was more than one thousand unfit for duty about five hundred killed and wounded and as many more that were taken sick soon after from exposure it was a terible time three days and night before the battle after the marching

April 9, 1862 (1862.04.09) Page 1, Newbern, NC



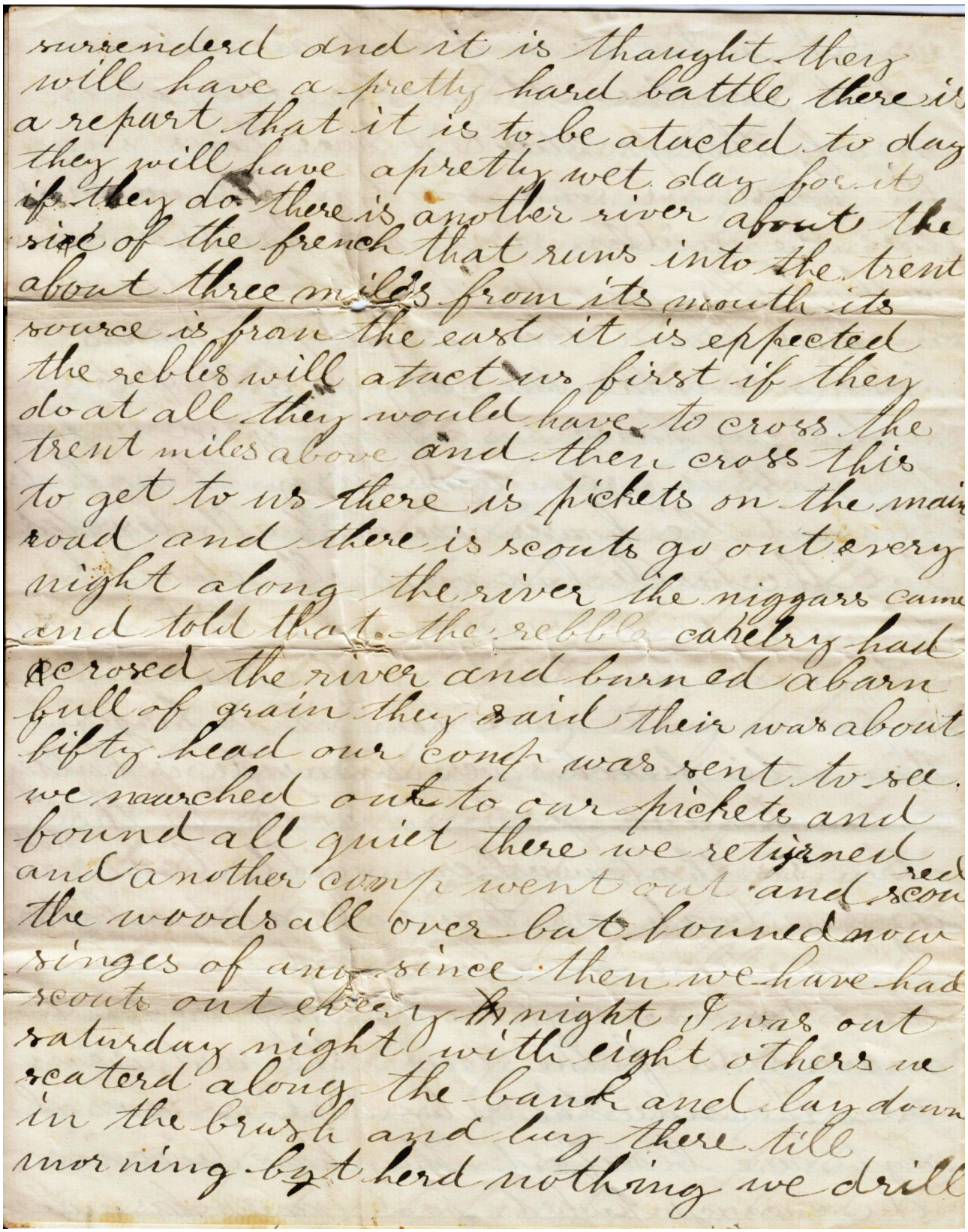
ten miles in a drenching rain through mud and water with our overcoats on and our blankets straped to our backs we sweat like buchers our clothes were very heavy being wet through we lay down in the wads and built fires and got warm I lay down with my feet to the fire with my blankets over me and had a good nights sleep in the morning my blankets were all wet through I was rather stiff but did not take cold a good many lost their helth was ruined by the exposhure after the battle our company had to go on guard before we had any thing to eat I did not have any thing to eat till ten oclock and then we had some flab jacks and molasses sugar after that we had to go on guard ~~once~~ every other day and do a great deal of other work we had our dead and the rebles and 10 horses to bear the guns and ammunition to gather up and take care of since we came here to this camp and got cleaned up we have had a pretty easy time our pickets have been relieved by

April 9, 1862 (1862.04.09) Page 2, Newbern, NC



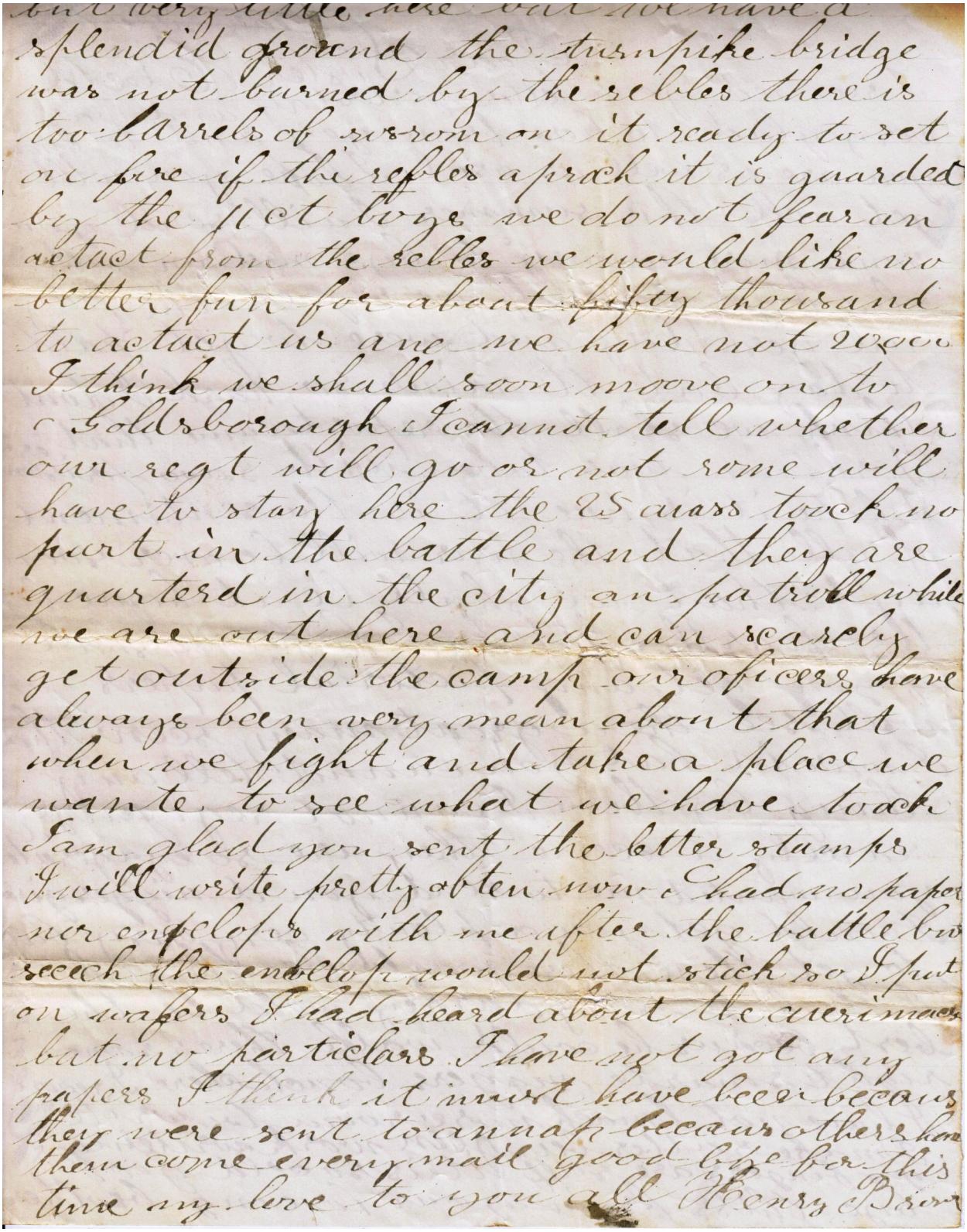
10th N. Y. I went on picket once I went up to newbern the other day it is one of the prettiest plucas I ever saw the houses are some wood and some brick they are midlen sized nice handsome hous with pretty yards all full of flowers in full bloom there is no pavements brick sidewalks the city is full of trees most every house has a large yard in front the grass is green and every thing looks pleasant the houses were most all deserted but the people have most all returned the nuce river runs on one side of the city and the trent on the other it empty's into the nuce here it is larger than the french river burnside is bulding entrenchments from one river to the other so that newbern will be surrounded the gunboats on two sids and a battery of more than one hundred guns on the other our regt 2 d & 9 th of are on the eastern side of the trent the rest are on the other side the city there is several regt here beaufort they have drove in the enemys pickets fort macon has not

April 9, 1862 (1862.04.09) Page 3, Newbern, NC



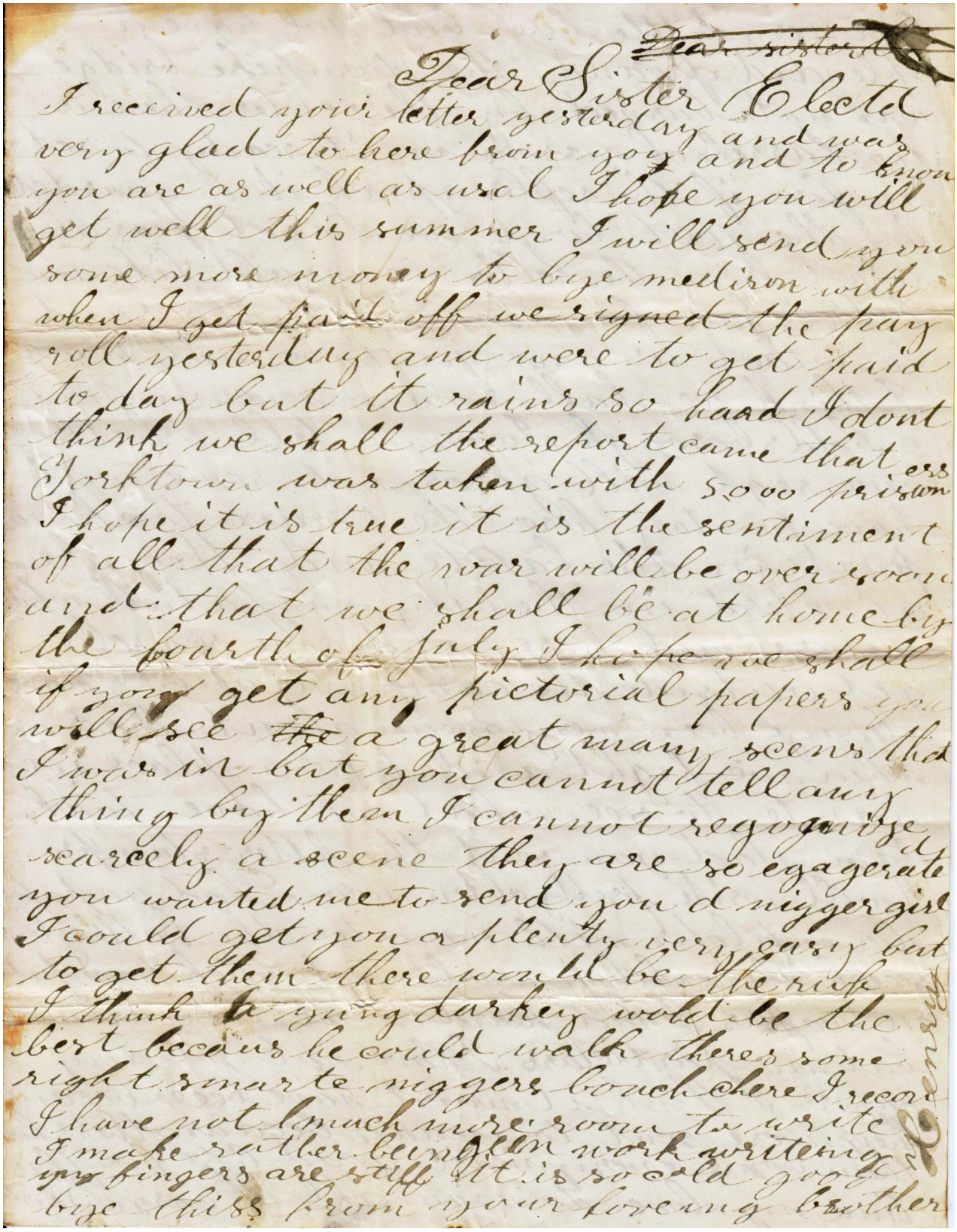
surrendered and it is thaught they will have a pretty hard battle there is a report that it is to be atacted to day they will have a pretty wet day for it if they do there is another river about the size of the french that runs into the trent about three miles from its mouth its source is from the east it is expected the rebles will atact us first if they do at all they would have to cross the trent miles above and then cross this to get to us there is pickets on the main road and there is scouts go out every night along the river the niggars came and told that the rebble cabelry had crosed the river and burned a barn full of grain they said their was about fifty head our comp was sent to see. we marched out to our pickets and found all quiet there we returned and another comp went out and scoured the woods all over but found now sinces of any since then we have had scouts out every night I was out saturday night with eight others we scatered along the bank and lay down in the brush and lay there till morning but herd nothing we drill

April 9, 1862 (1862.04.09) Page 4, Newbern, NC



but very little here but we have a splendid ground the turnpike bridge was not burned by the rebles there is two barrels of rosin on it ready to set on fire if the reples aprach it is guarded by the 51st boys we do not fear an attact from the rebles we would like no better fun for about fifty thousand to attact us and we have not doubt I think we shall soon moove on to Goldsboroagh I cannot tell whether our regt will go or not some will have to stay here the Massachusetts took no part in the battle and they are quartered in the city on patrill while we are out here and can scarcely get outside the camp our officers have always been very mean about that when we fight and take a place we want to see what we have took I am glad you sent the letter stamps I will write pretty often now I had no paper nor envelopes with me after the battle but seeing the envelope would not stick so I put on wafers I had heard about the carnage but no particulars I have not got any papers I think it must have been because they were sent to annapolis because others from there come every mail good bye for this time my love to you all Henry Brown

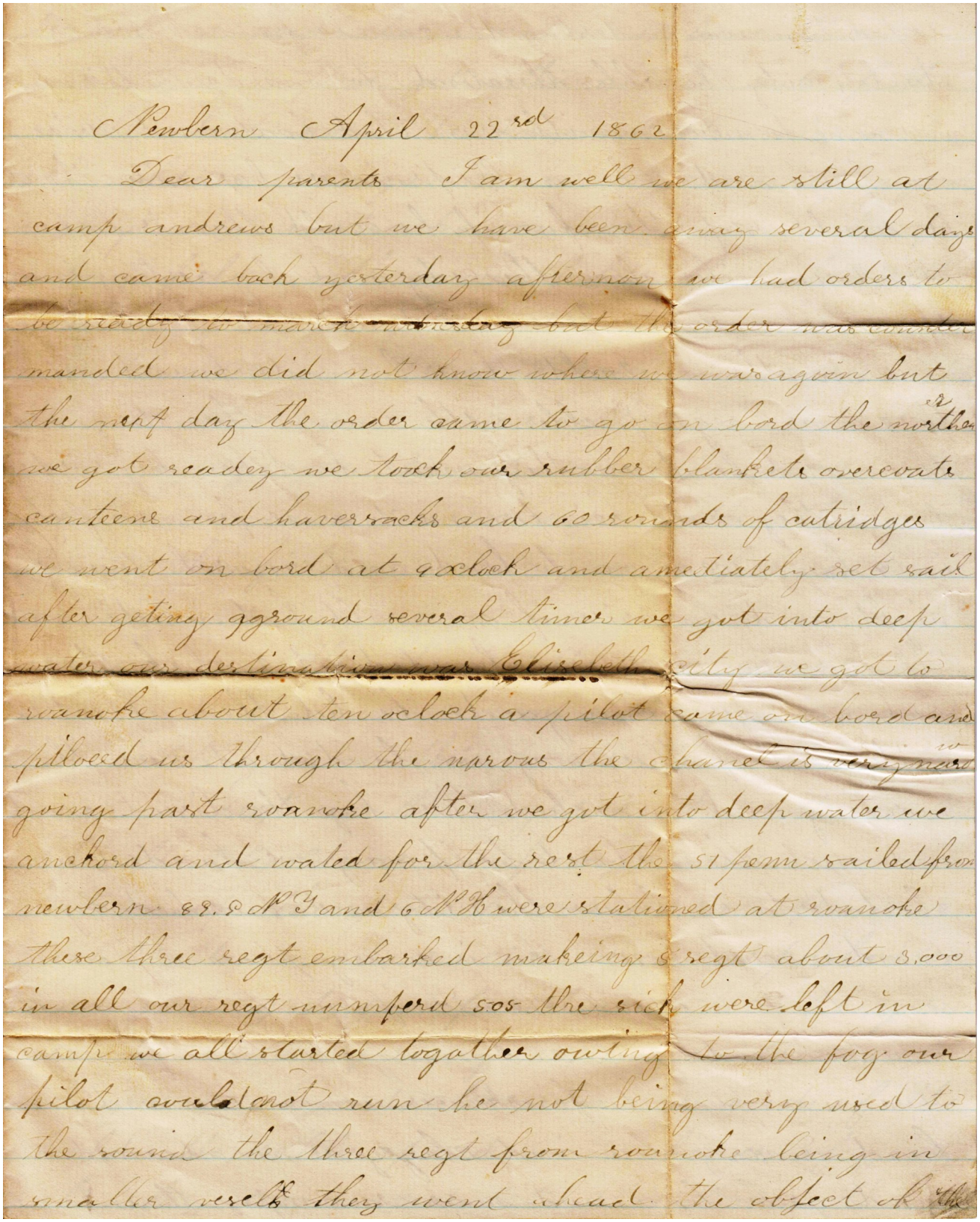
April 9, 1862 (1862.04.09) Page 5, Newbern, NC



Dear Sister Elected

I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to here from you and to know you are as well as usel I hope you will get well this summer I will send you some more money to bye medison with when I get paid off we signed the pay roll yesterday and were to get paid to day but it rains so haad I dont think we shall the report came that Yorktown was taken with 5000 prisons I hope it is true it is the sentiment of all that the war will be over soon and that we shall be at home by the fourth of July I hope we shall if you get any pictorial papers you will see the a great many scens that I was in but you cannot tell any thing by them I cannot regonize scarcely a scene they are so exagerate you wanted me to send you a nigger girl I could get you a plenty very easy but to get them there would be the risk I think a young darkey would be the best because he could walk there is some right smarte niggers bout here I reckon I have not much more room to write I make rather bungelin work writing my fingers are still lit it is so cold good bye this from your loveing brother

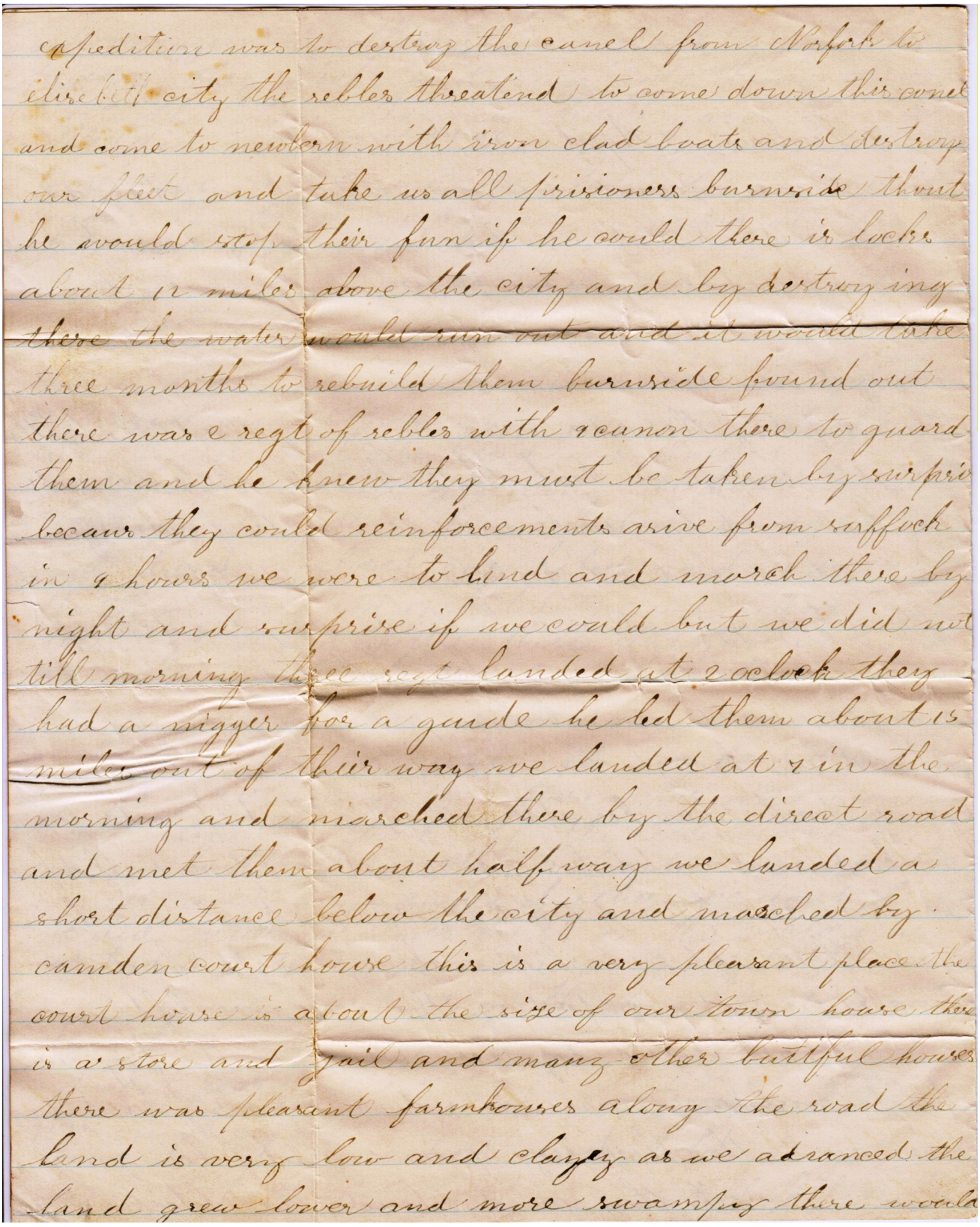
April 9, 1862 (1862.04.09) Page 6, Newbern, NC



Newbern April 22nd 1862

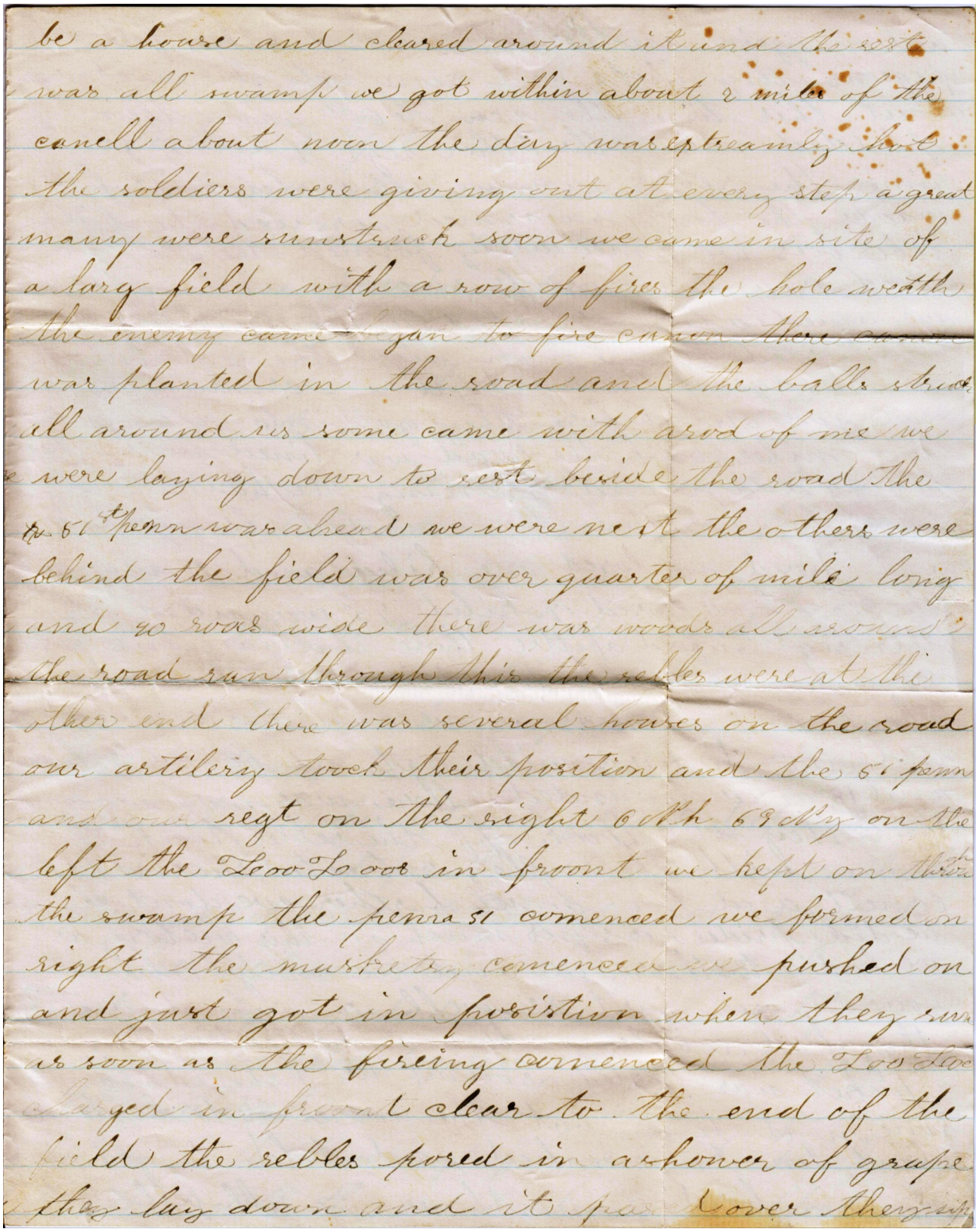
Dear parents I am well we are still at camp andrews but we have been away several days and came back yesterday afternoon we had orders to be ready to march wednesday but the order was countermanded we did not know where we was agoin but the next day the order came to go on bord the northern we got readey we took our rubber blankets overcoats canteens and haversacks and 60 rounds of cutridges we went on bord at 9 oclock and immediately set sail after geting aground several times we got into deep water our destination was Elizebeth city we got to roanoke about ten oclock a pilot came on bord and piloted us through the narrows the channel is very near going past roanoke after we got into deep water we anchord and waited for the rest the 51 penn sailed from newbern 8 reg & 1 Co Y and 6 Co H were stationed at roanoke these three regt embarked making 3 regt about 3,000 in all our regt numbered 505 the sick were left in camp we all started together owing to the fog our pilot would not run he not being very used to the sound the three regt from roanoke being in smaller vessels they went ahead the object of the

April 22, 1862 (1862.04.22) Page 1, Newbern, NC



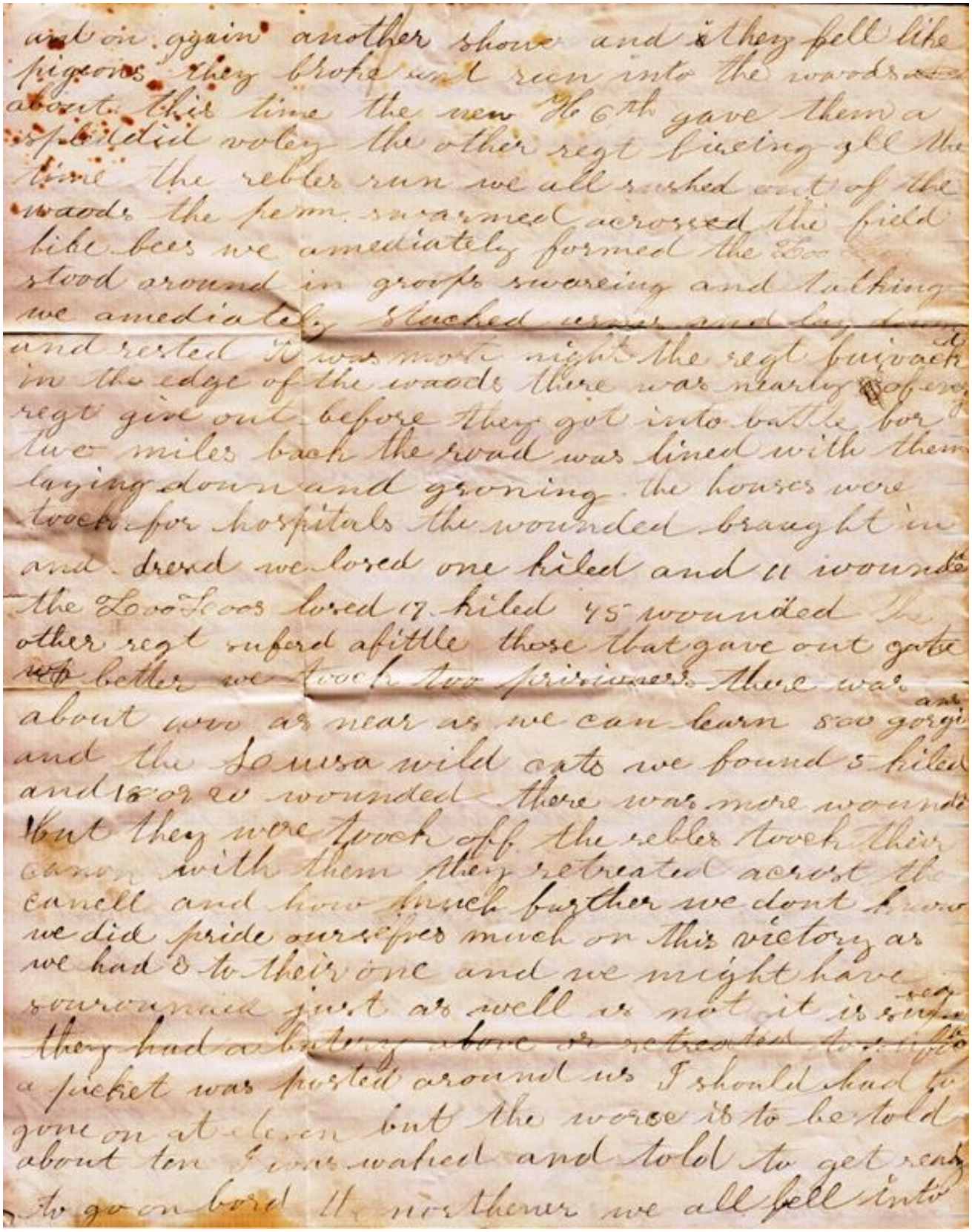
expedition was to destroy the canel from Norfork to
this city the rebles threatend to come down this canel
and come to newbern with iron clad boats and destroy
our fleet and take us all prisioners burnside thout
he would stop their fun if he could there is locks
about 12 miles above the city and by destroying
there the water would run out and it would take
three months to rebuild them burnside found out
there was a regt of rebles with cannon there to guard
them and he knew they must be taken by surprise
becaus they could reinforcements arive from suffock
in 6 hours we were to land and march there by
night and surprise if we could but we did not
till morning three regt landed at 2 oclock they
had a nigger for a gaude he led them about 15
miles out of their way we landed at 7 in the
morning and marched there by the direct road
and met them about half way we landed a
short distance below the city and marched by
camden court house this is a very pleasant place the
court house is about the size of our town house there
is a store and jail and many other beatiful houses
there was pleasant farmhouses along the road the
land is very low and clayey as we advanced the
land grew lower and more swampy there would

April 22, 1862 (1862.04.22) Page2, Newbern, NC

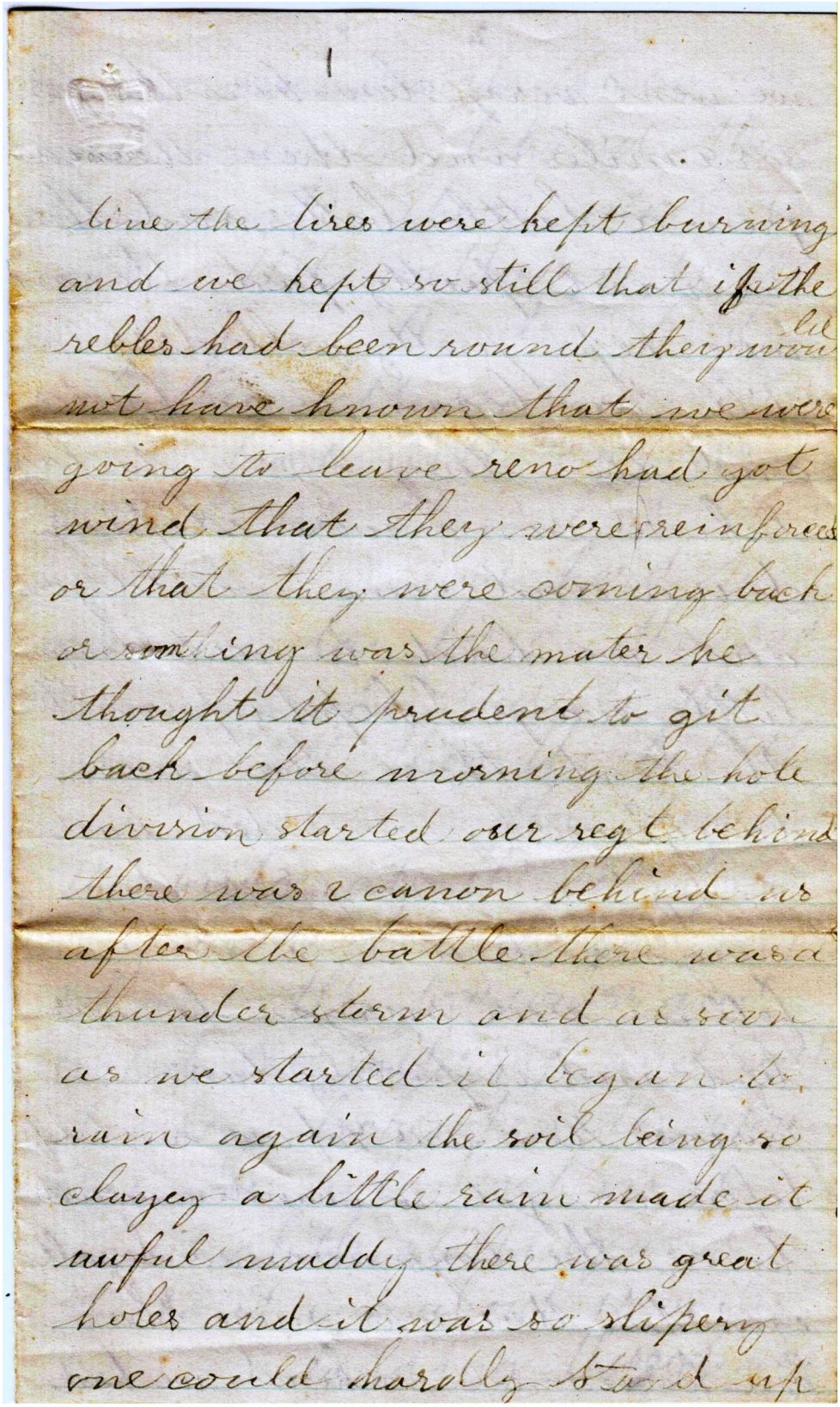


be a house and cleared around it and the rest
was all swamp we got within about 2 miles of the
conell about noon the day was extreamly hot
the soldiers were giving out at every step a great
many were sunstruck soon we came in site of
a larg field with a row of fires the hole width
the enemy came to gun to fire canon there came
was planted in the road and the balls flew
all around us some came with a rod of me we
were laying down to rest beside the road the
62 & 51st Penn was ahead we were next the others were
behind the field was over quarter of mile long
and 20 rods wide there was woods all around
the road run through this the rebles were at the
ther end there was several houses on the road
our artilery took their position and the 51 penn
and our regt on the right 6th 6 9th 9 on the
left the Zoo Zoo in front we kept on the
the swamp the penn 51 comenced we formed on
right the musketry comenced we pushed on
and just got in position when they
as soon as the fireing comenced the Zoo Zoo
charged in front clear to the end of the
field the rebles pored in a shower of grape
they lay down and it pas over they

April 22, 1862 (1862.04.22) Page 3, Newbern, NC



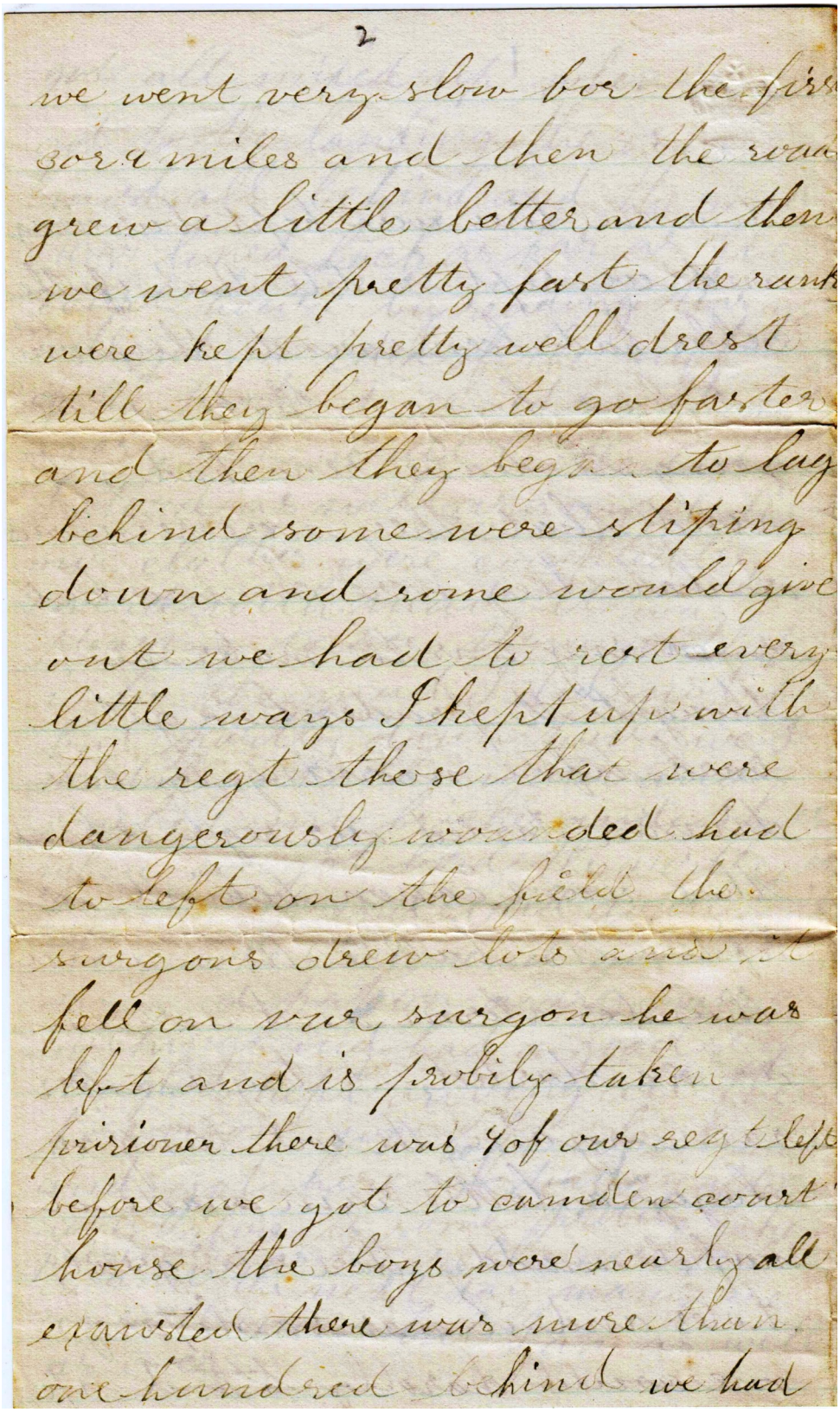
April 22, 1862 (1862.04.22) Page 4, Newbern, NC



1

line the lires were kept burning
and we kept so still that if the
rebles had been round they would
not have known that we were
going to leave reno had got
wind that they were reinforced
or that they were coming back
or something was the mater he
thought it prudent to git
back before morning the hole
division started our regt behind
there was a canon behind us
after the battle there was a
thunder storm and as soon
as we started it began to
rain again the soil being so
clayey a little rain made it
awful maddy there was great
holes and it was so slipery
one could hardly stand up

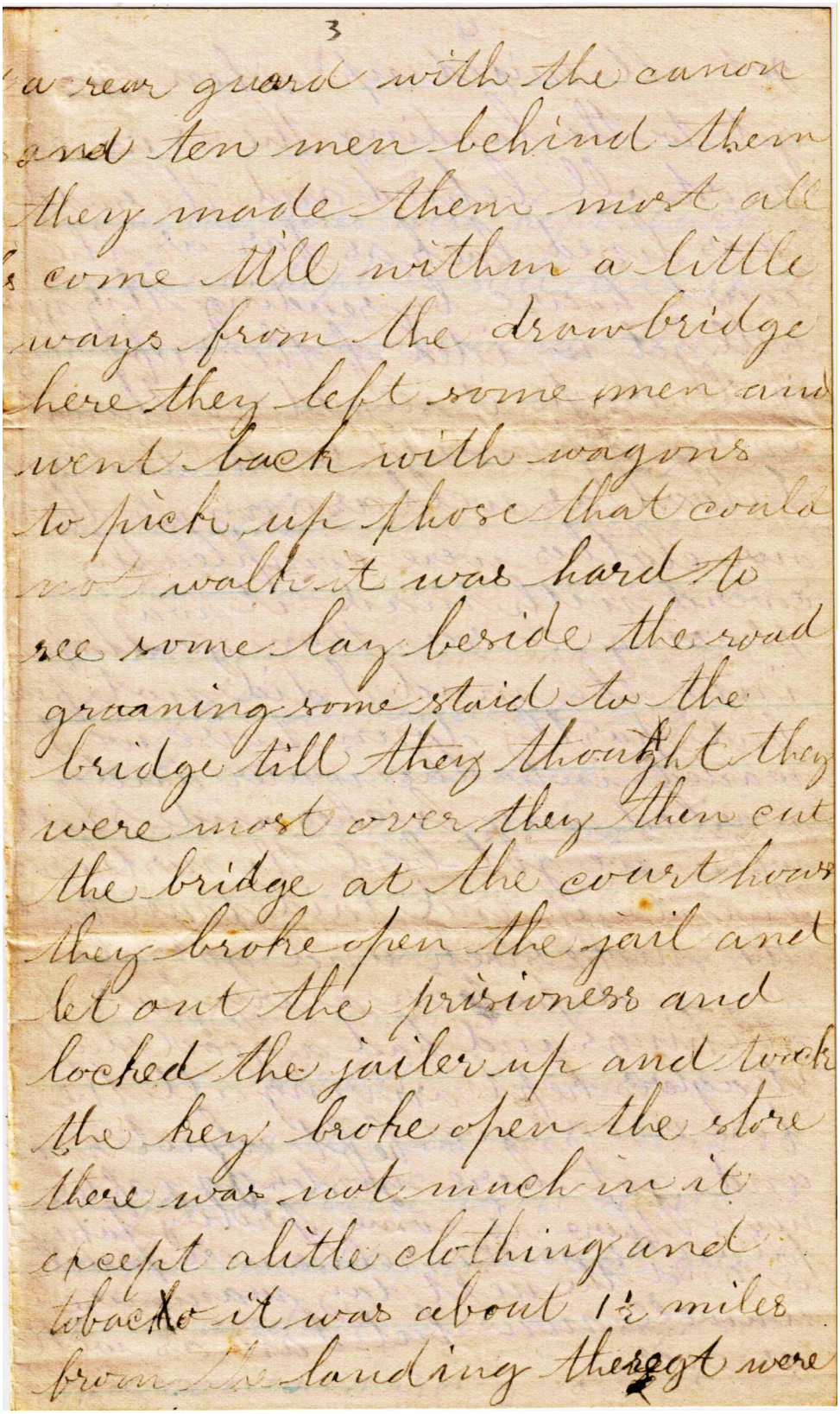
April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 1, Newbern, NC



2

we went very slow bor the firs
sor a miles and then the roa
grew a little better and then
we went pretty fast the rank
were kept pretty well drest
till they began to go faster
and then they begin to lag
behind some were slipping
down and some would give
out we had to rest every
little ways I kept up with
the regt these that were
dangerously wounded had
to left on the field the
surgons drew lots and it
fell on our surgon he was
left and is probily taken
prisioner there was 4 of our regt left
before we got to camden court
house the boys were nearly all
exausted there was more than
one hundred behind we had

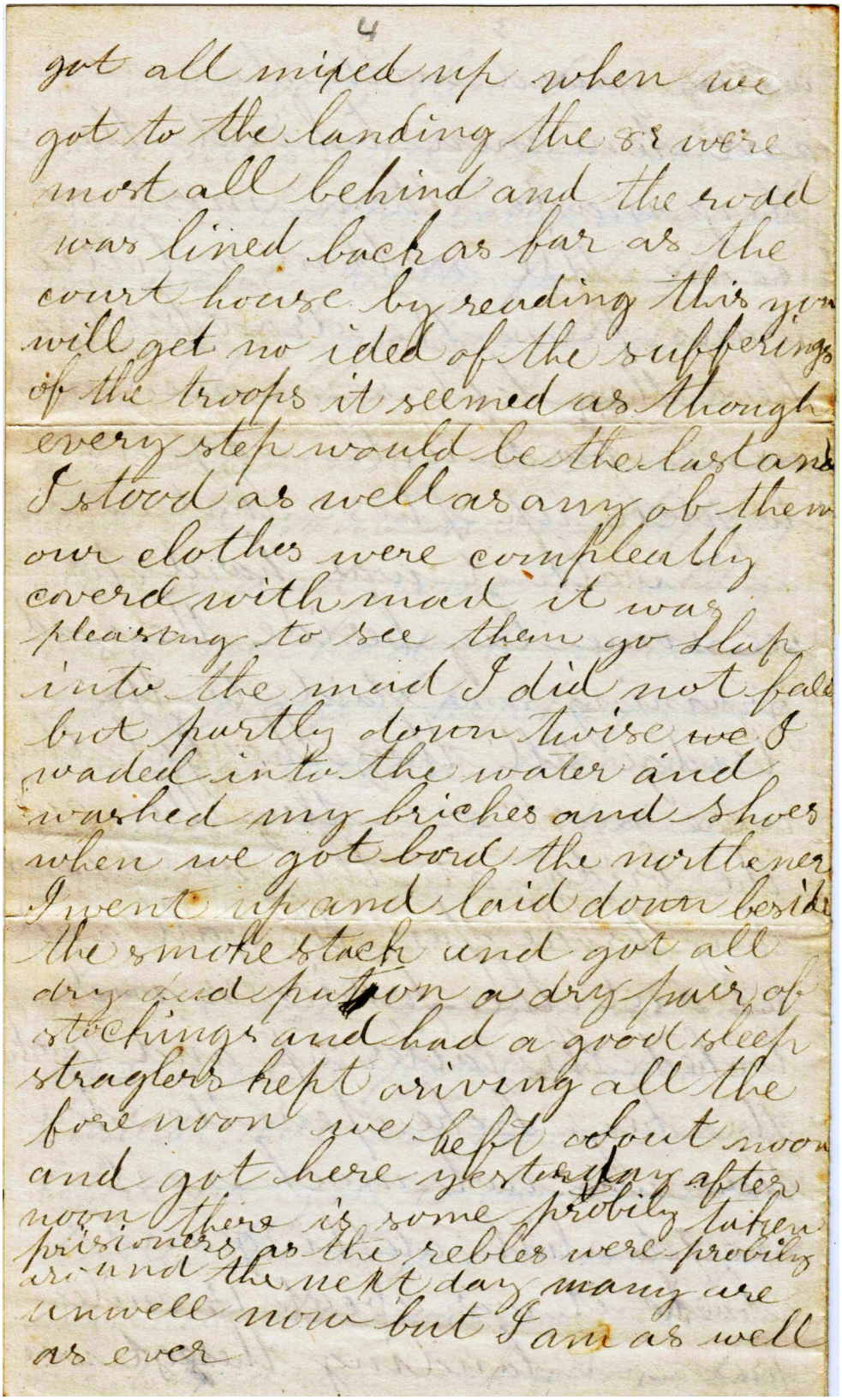
April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 2, Newbern, NC



3

a rear guard with the canon
and ten men behind them
they made them most all
come till within a little
ways from the drawbridge
here they left some men and
went back with wagons
to pick up those that could
not walk it was hard to
see some lay beside the road
groaning some staid to the
bridge till they thought they
were most over they then cut
the bridge at the court house
they broke open the jail and
let out the prisioners and
locked the jailer up and took
the key broke open the store
there was not much in it
except a little clothing and
tobacco it was about 1½ miles
from the landing there got were

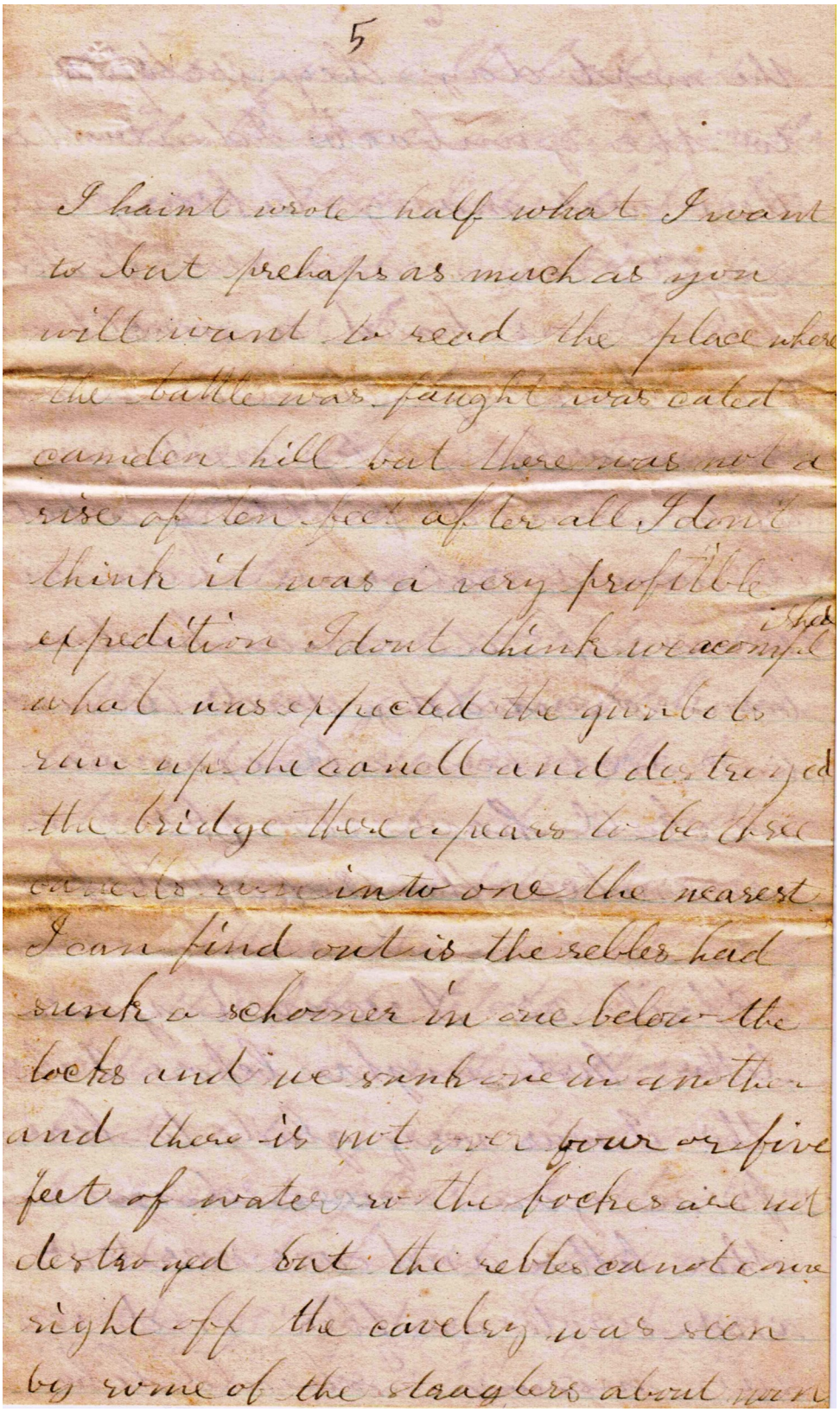
April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 3, Newbern, NC



4

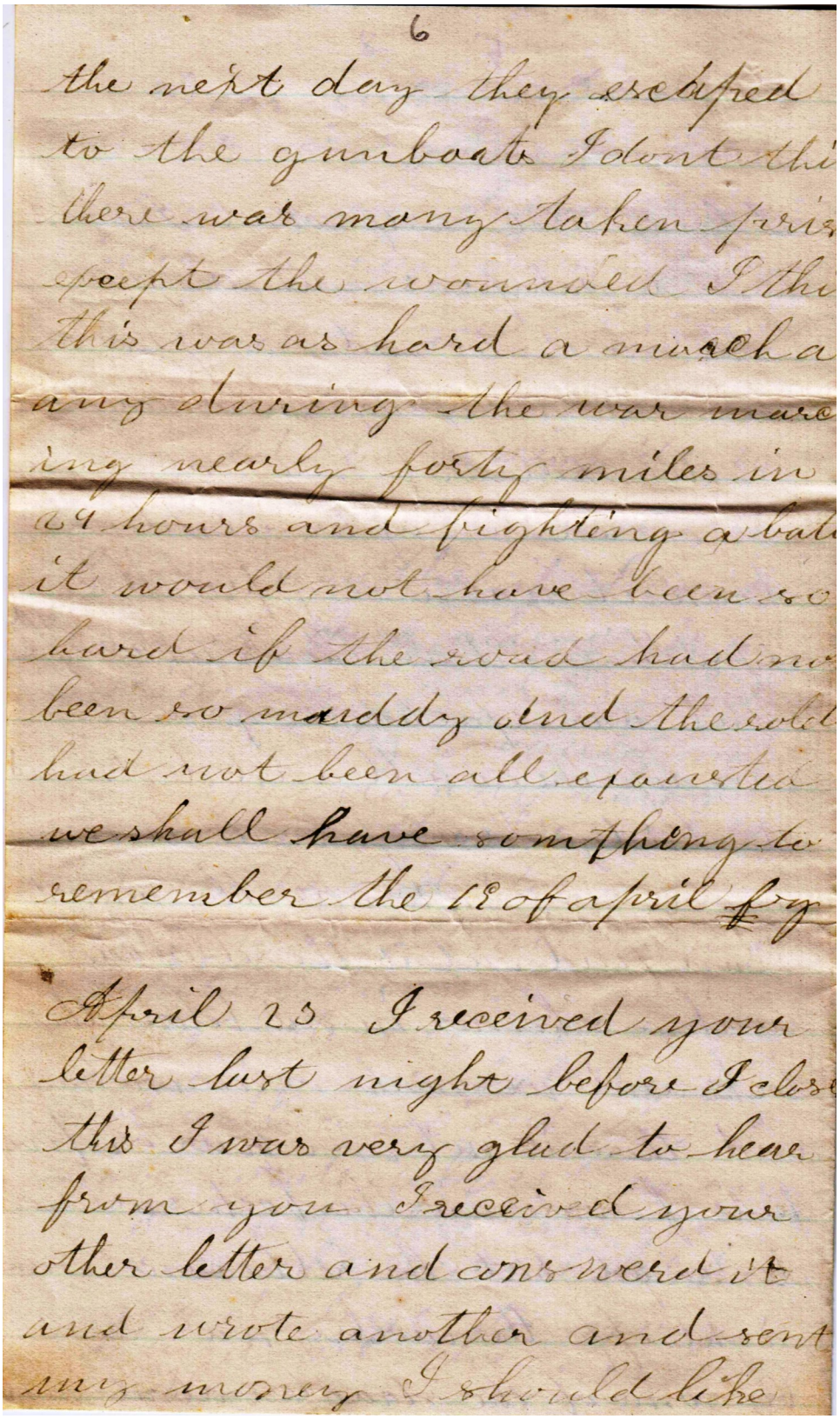
got all miped up when we got to the landing the 8 r were most all behind and the road was lined back as far as the court house by reading this you will get no ided of the sufferings of the troops it seemed as though every step would be the last and I stood as well as any of them our clothes were compleatly coverd with mud it was pleasing to see them go slap into the mud I did not fall but partly down twise we waded into the water and washed my briches and shoes when we got bord the northener I went up and laid down beside the smoke stack and got all dry and put on a dry pair of stockings and had a good sleep straglers kept arriving all the fore noon we left about noon and got here yesterday after noon there is some probily taken prisioners as the rebles were probily around the next day many are unwell now but I am as well as ever

April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 4, Newbern, NC



5

I haint wrote half what I want
to but prehaps as much as you
will want to read the place where
the battle was fought was called
camden hill but there was not a
rise of ten feet after all I don't
think it was a very profitble
expedition I dont think we accomp.
what was expected the gunboats
run up the canell and destroyed
the bridge there appears to be three
canels run into one the nearest
I can find out is the rebles had
sunk a schooner in one below the
locks and we sunk one in another
and there is not over four or five
feet of water & the locks are not
destroyed but the rebles cannot come
right off the cavelry was seen
by some of the staggers about noon

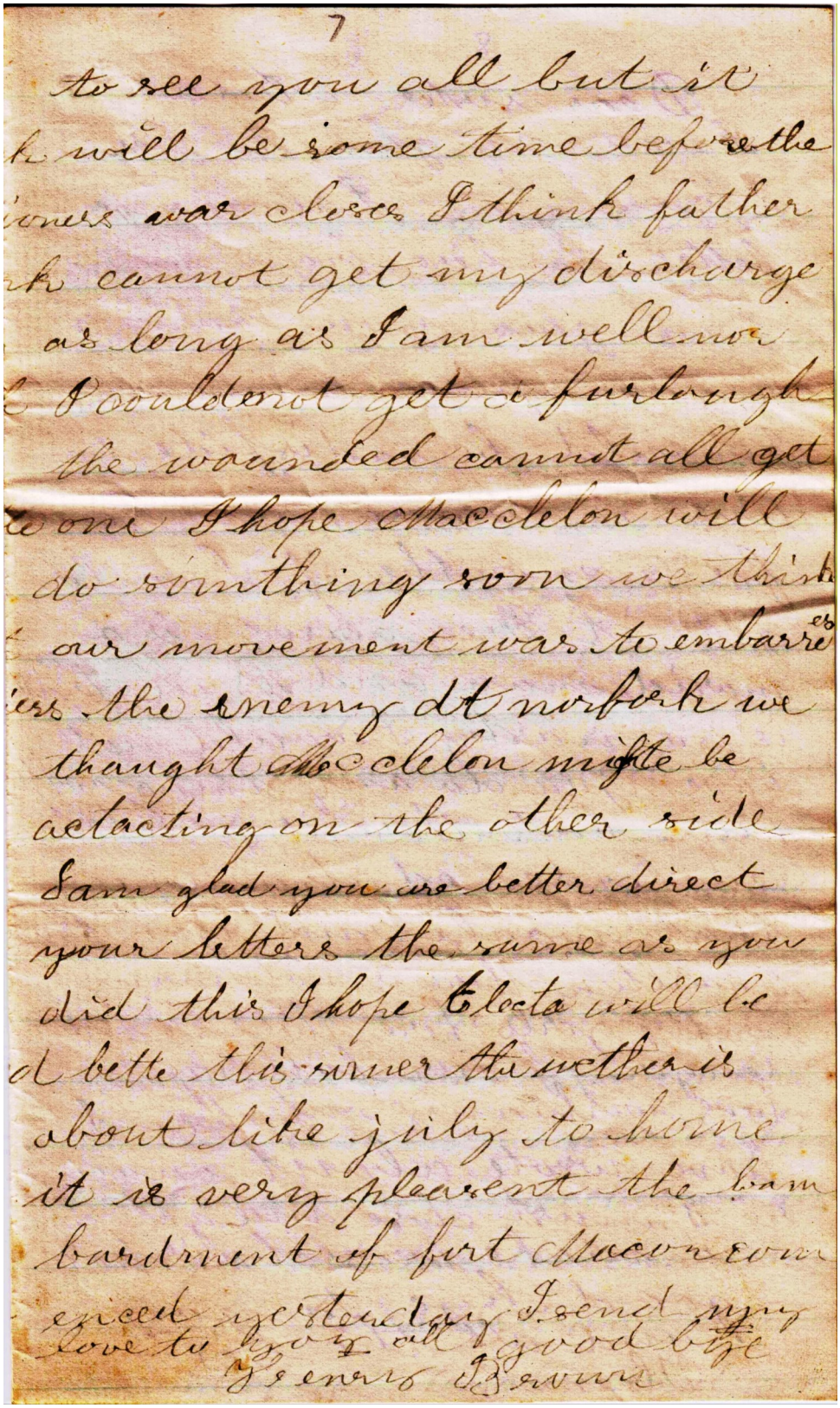


6

the next day they escaped
to the gunboats I dont thi
there war many taken pris
cept the wounded I thi
this was as hard a march a
any during the war marc
ing nearly forty miles in
24 hours and fighting a bat
it would not have been so
hard if the road had no
been so muddy and the cold
had not been all exausted
we shall have something to
remember the 12 of april by

April 23 I received your
letter last night before I clos
this I was very glad to hear
from you I received your
other letter and answered it
and wrote another and sent
you money I should like

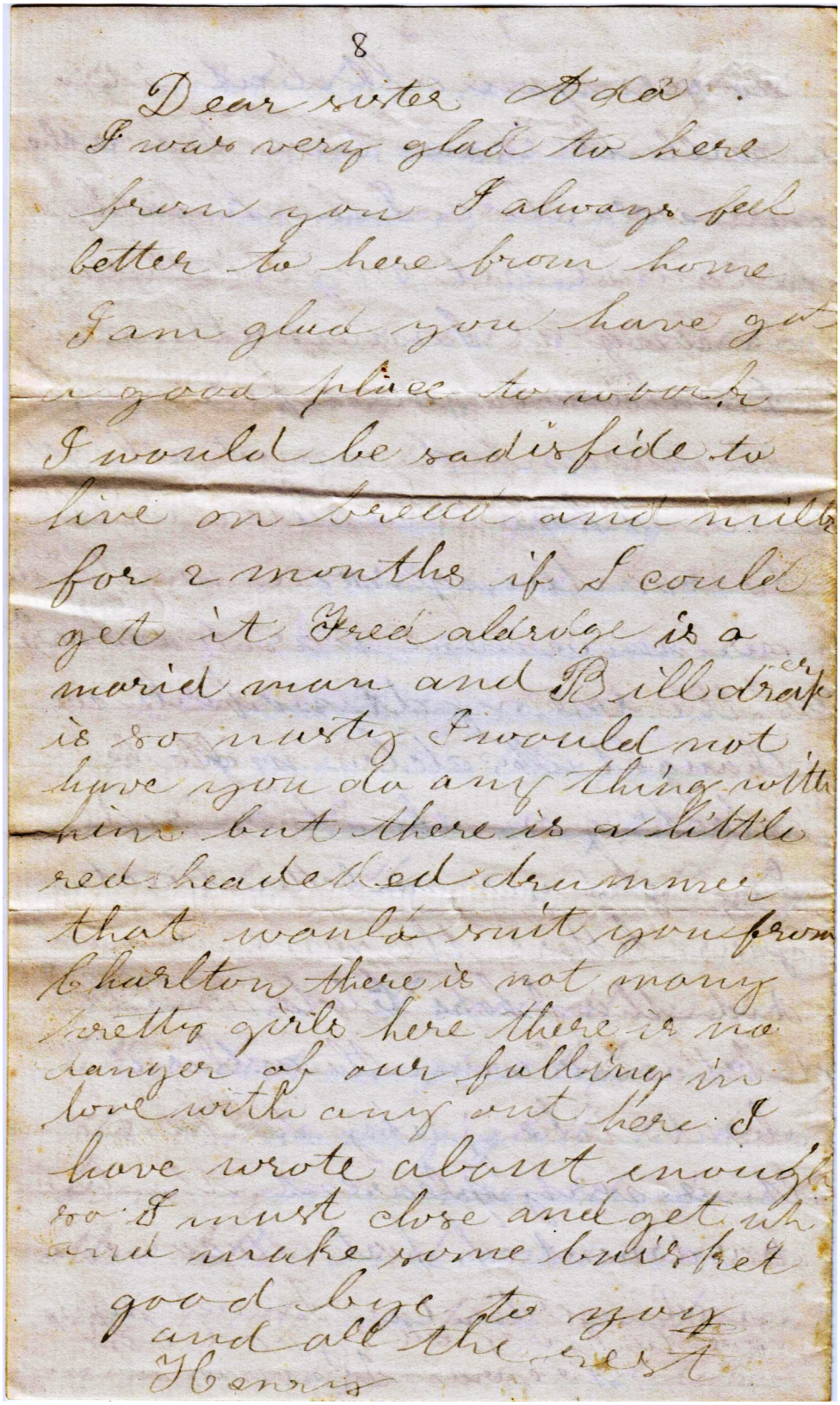
April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 6, Newbern, NC



7

to see you all but it
will be some time before the
ones war closes I think father
can not get my discharge
as long as I am well now
& I could not get a furlough
the wounded cannot all get
one I hope Macclelon will
do sumthing soon we think
our movement was to embarrass
the enemy at norfork we
thought Macclelon might be
actacting on the other side
I am glad you are better direct
your letters the same as you
did this I hope Electa will be
a bette this winter the wether is
about like july to home
it is very pleasent the bom
bardment of fort Macon exceed
exceed yesterday I send my
love to you all good bye
Yours &c Brown

April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 7, Newbern, NC

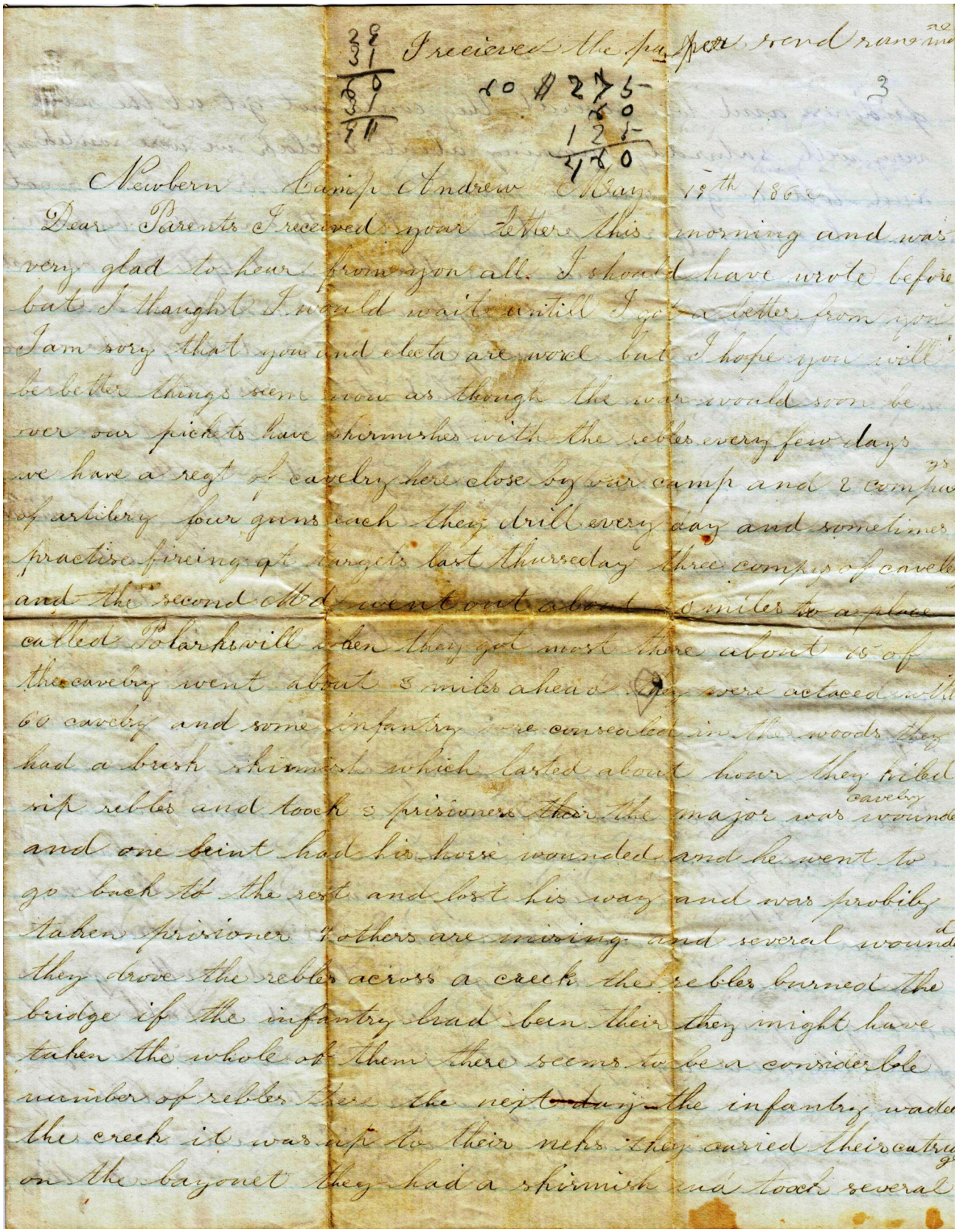


8

Dear sister Ada.
I was very glad to here
from you I always feel
better to here from home
I am glad you have got
a good place to work
I would be sadisfide to
live on bread and milk
for 2 months if I could
get it Fred aldridge is a
maried man and Bill draper
is so nasty I would not
have you do any thing with
him but there is a little
red headed drummer
that would suit you from
Charlton there is not many
pretty girls here there is no
danger of our falling in
love with any out here I
have wrote about enough
too I must close and get up
and make some breakfast
good bye to you
and all the rest
Henry

April 22 , 1862 Continuation Letter (1862.04.22) Page 8, Newbern, NC

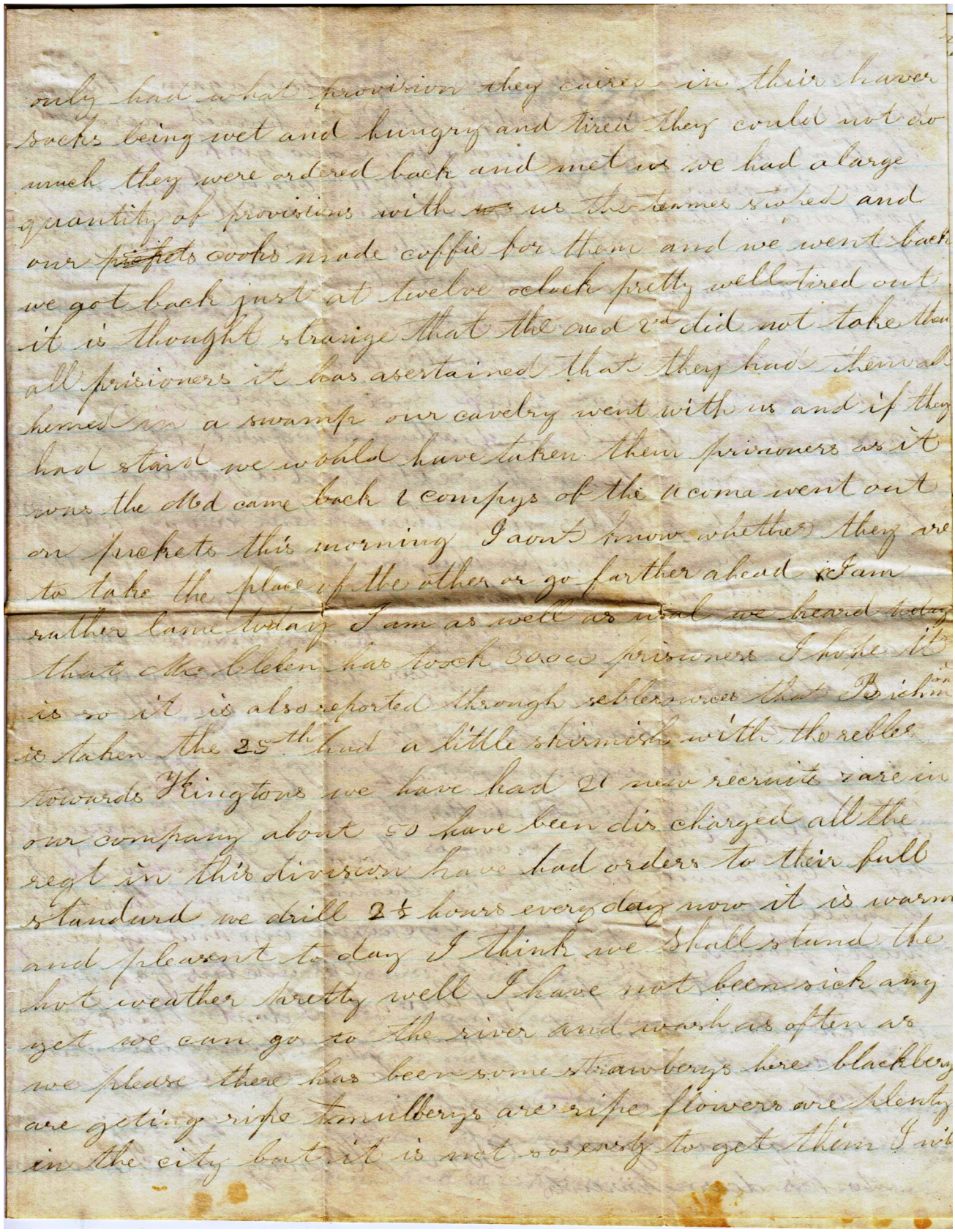
The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown



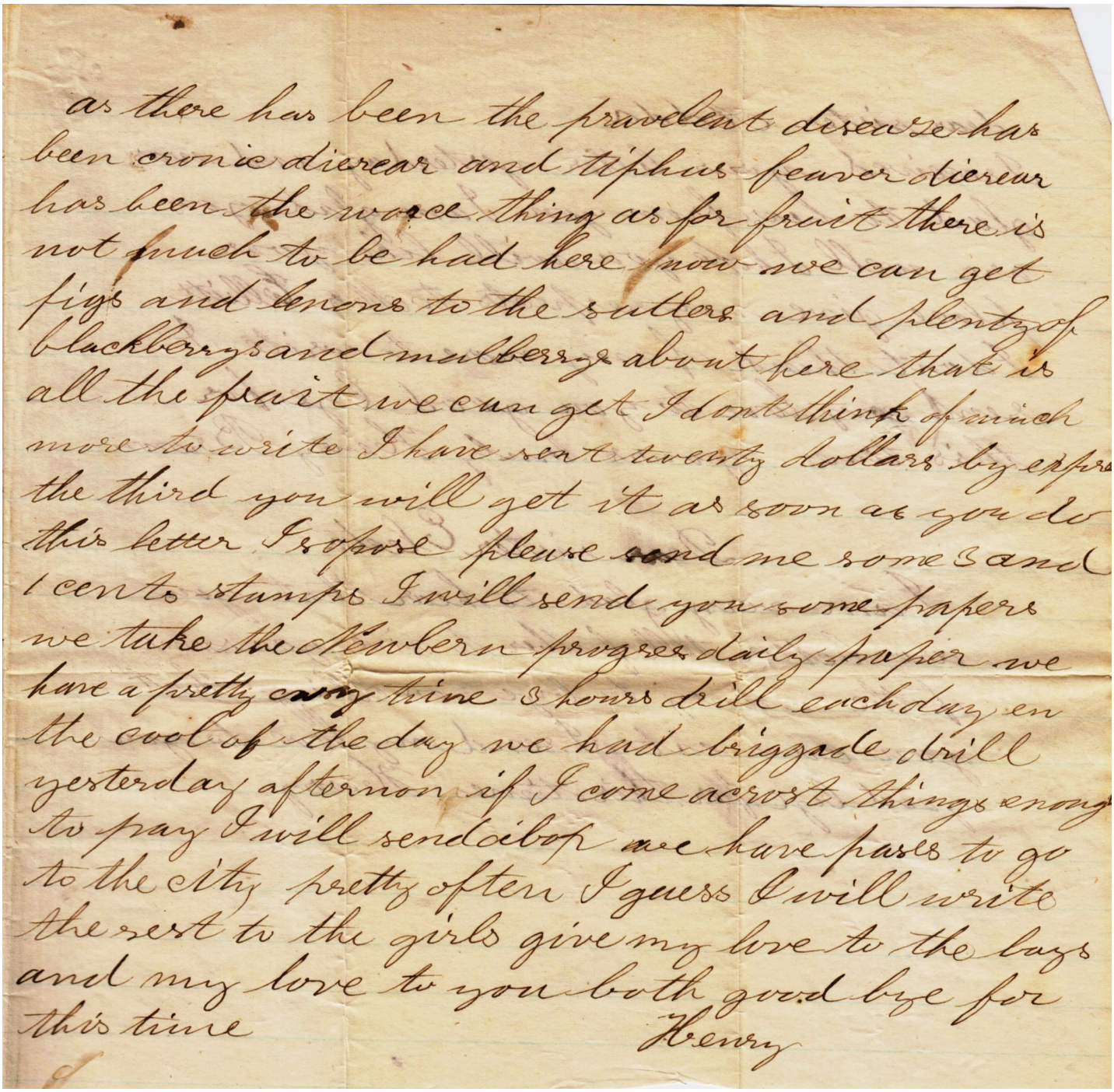
Newbern Camp Andrew May 19th 1862

Dear Parents I received your letter this morning and was very glad to hear from you all. I should have wrote before but I thaught I would wait untill I got a letter from you I am sory that you and electa are sick but I hope you will be better things seem now as though the war would soon be over our pickets have skirmishes with the rebles every few days we have a regt of cavelry here close by our camp and 2 comps of artilery four guns each they drill every day and sometimes practise firing at targets last Thursday three comps of cavelry and the second Md went out about 8 miles to a place called Polarkwill when they got most there about 60 of the cavelry went about 3 miles ahead they were attacked with 60 cavelry and some infantry were concealed in the woods they had a brush skirmish which lasted about hour they killed six rebles and took 3 prisioners then the major was wounded and one Seint had his horse wounded and he went to go back to the rest and lost his way and was probibly taken prisioner 7 others are missing and several wounded they drove the rebles across a creek the rebles burned the bridge if the infantry had been their they might have taken the whole of them there seems to be a considerable number of rebles there the next day the infantry waded the creek it was up to their necks they carried their cartridges on the bayonet they had a skirmish and took several

May 19, 1862 (1862.05.19) Page 1, Newbern, NC



only had what provision they carried in their haver
sacks being wet and hungry and tired they could not do
much they were ordered back and met us we had a large
quantity of provisions with us the horses stored and
our ~~pickets~~ pickets cooks made coffie for them and we went back
we got back just at twelve oclock pretty well tired out
it is thought strange that the 2nd did not take them
all prisioners it has asertained that they had their wagons
hemed in a swamp our cavelry went with us and if they
had staid we would have taken them prisoners as it
was the 46d came back & comp^ys of the 2d came out
on pickets this morning I dont know whether they were
to take the place of the other or go further ahead I am
rather glad today I am as well as usual we heard today
that Gen Burnside had took 2000 prisoners I hope it
is so it is also reported through rebel sources that Richmond
is taken the 25th had a little skirmish with the rebels
towards Kingstown we have had 21 new recruits join in
our company about 50 have been discharged all the
regt in this division have had orders to their full
standard we drill 2½ hours every day now it is warm
and pleasent to day I think we shall stand the
hot weather pretty well I have not been sick any
yet we can go to the river and wash as often as
we please there has been some strawberrys here blackberrys
are getting ripe mulberrys are ripe flowers are plenty
in the city but it is not so easy to get them I will

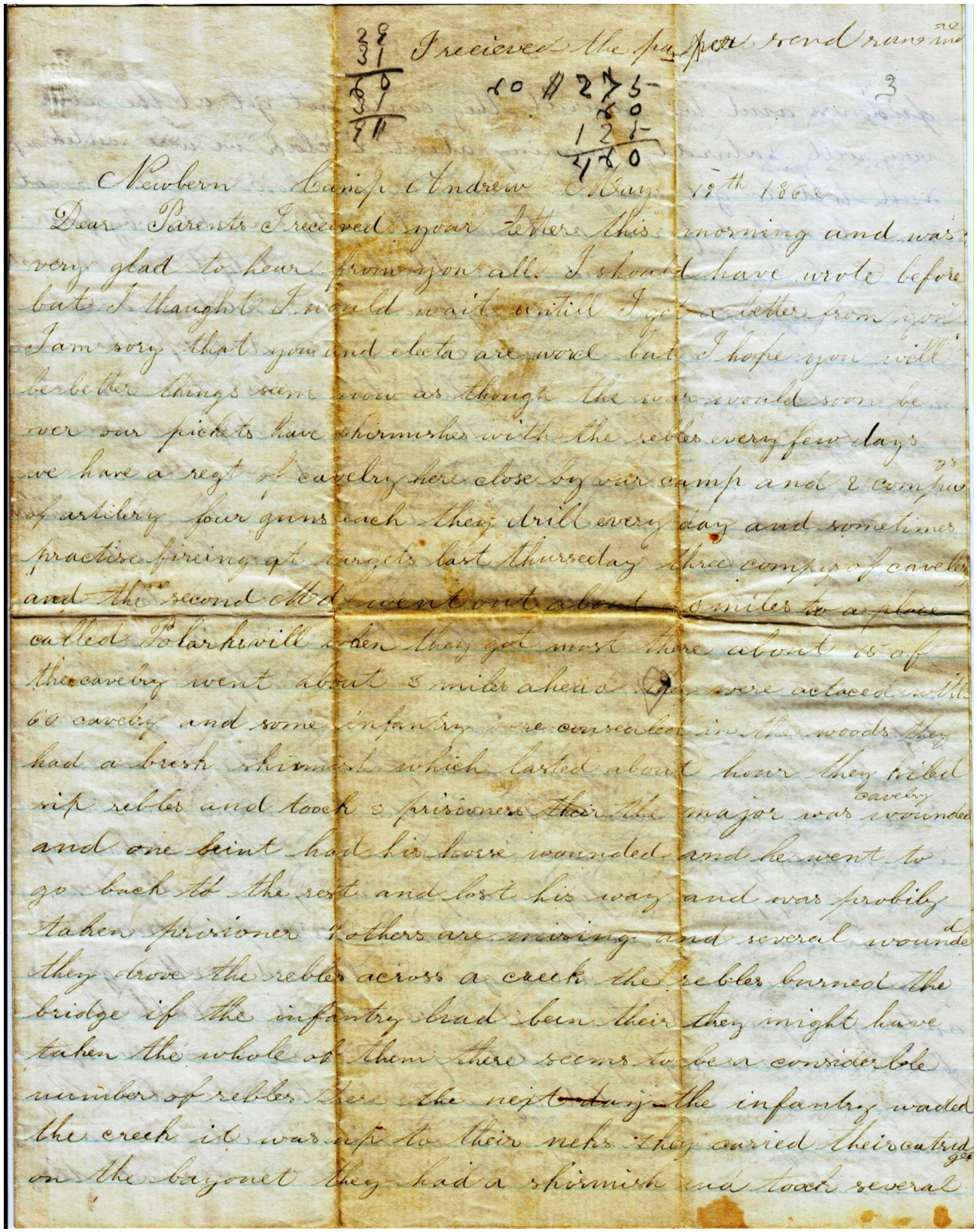


as there has been the prevalent disease has been cronic diarear and tiphus feaver diereur has been the worse thing as for fruit there is not much to be had here now we can get figs and lemons to the sutlers and plenty of blackberrys and mulberrys about here that is all the fruit we can get I dont think of much more to write I have sent twenty dollars by expres the third you will get it as soon as you do this letter I suppose please send me some 3 and 1 cent stamps I will send you some papers we take the Newbern progress daily paper we have a pretty easy time 3 hours drill each day en the cool of the day we had briggade drill yesterday afternoon if I come across things enough to pay I will send a box we have pases to go to the city pretty often I guess I will write the rest to the girls give my love to the boys and my love to you both good bye for this time

Henry

1862.5.11 Page 4, Newbern, NC

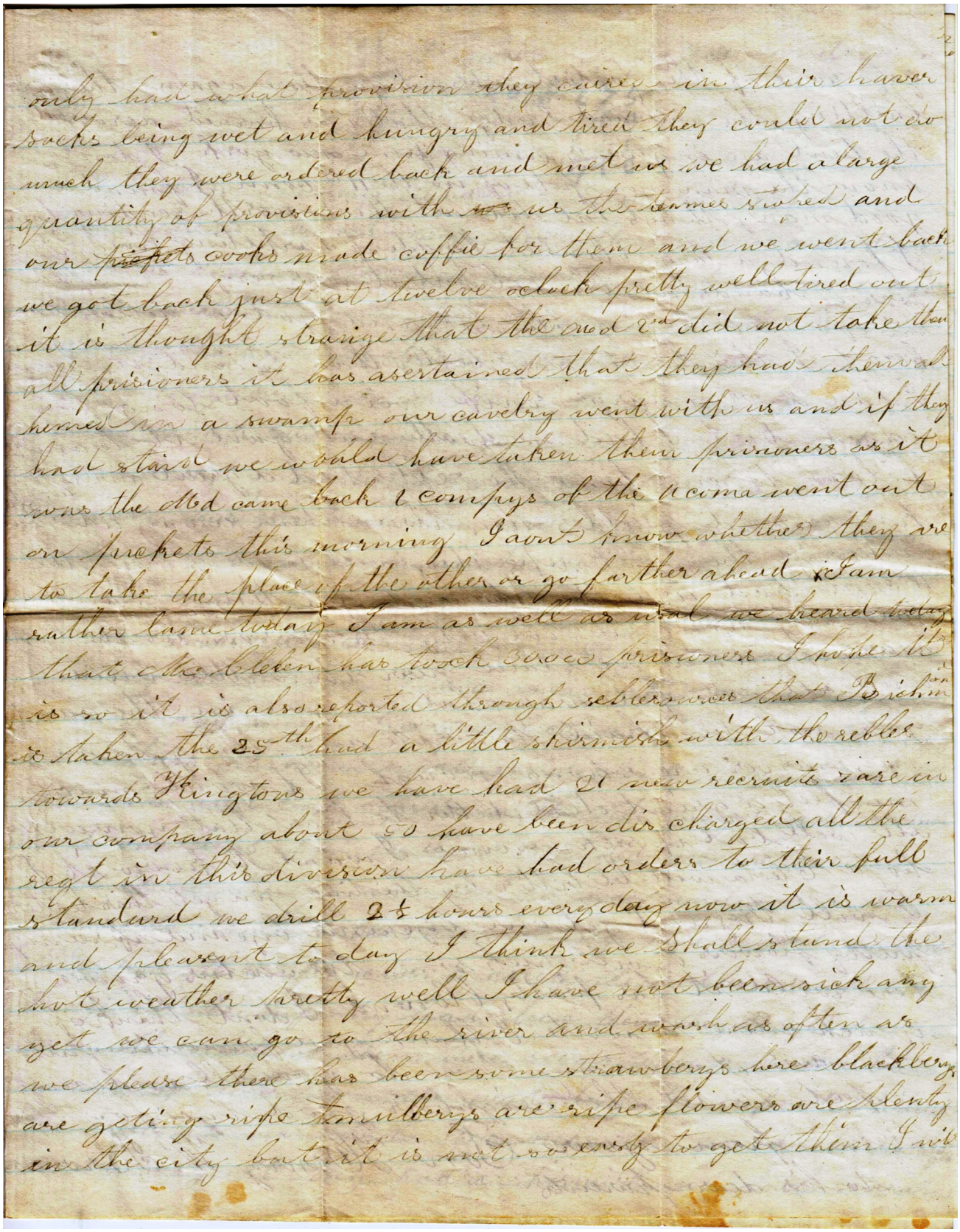
The Civil War Letters of Henry Washington Brown



Newbern Camp Andrew May 19th 1862

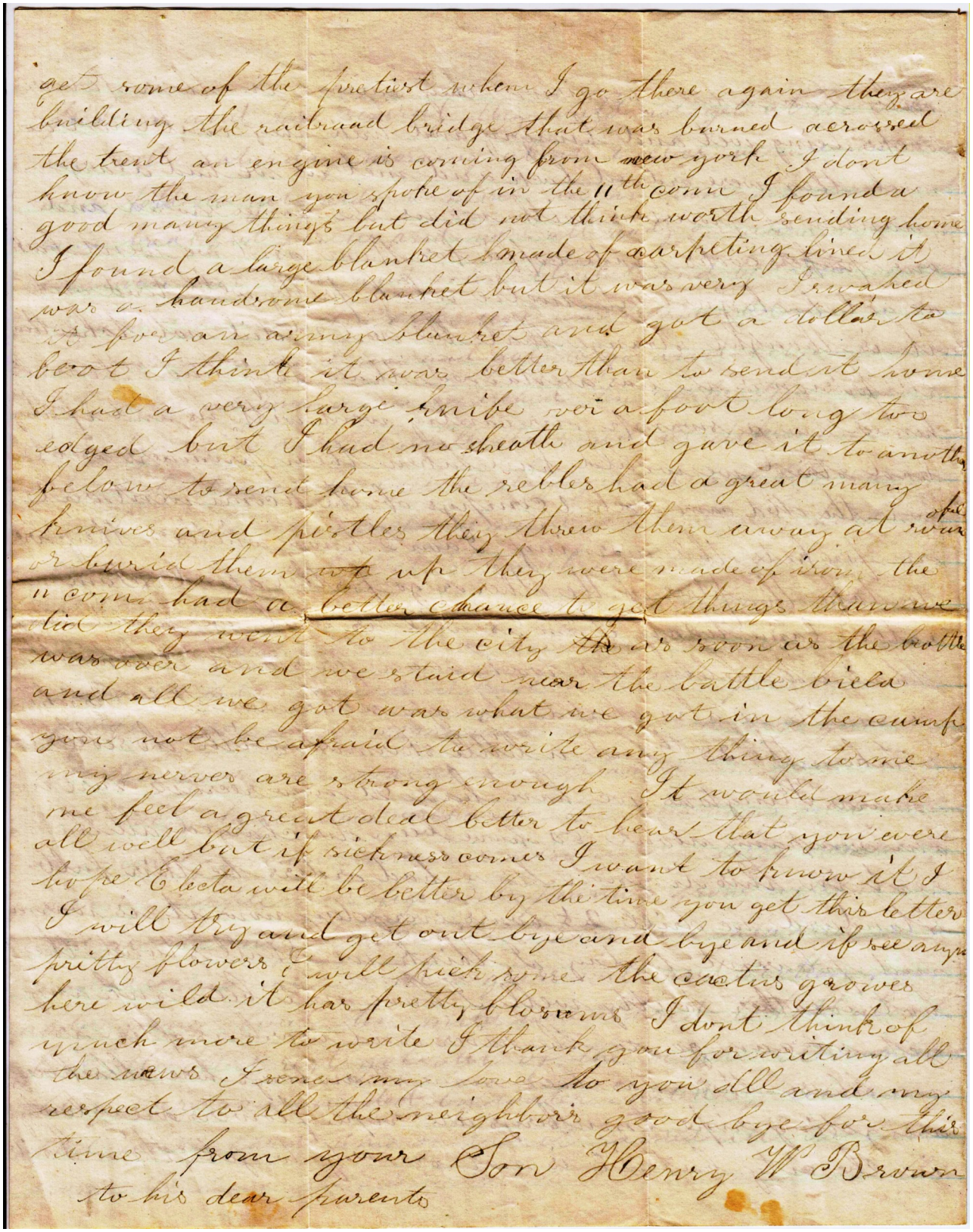
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May 19, 1862 (1862.5.19) Page 1, Newbern, NC



only had what provision they carried in their haver
sacks being wet and hungry and tired they could not do
much they were ordered back and met us we had a large
quantity of provisions with us the teames stoped and
our ~~prisoners~~ cooks made coffie for them and we went back
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is so it is also reported through rebel sources that Richmond
is taken the 25th had a little skirmish with the rebels
towards Kinston we have had 21 new recruits rais in
our company about 50 have been discharged all the
regt in this division have had orders to their full
standard we drill 2½ hours every day now it is warm
and pleasent to day I think we shall stand the
hot weather pretty well I have not been sick any
yet we can go to the river and wash as often as
we please there has been some strawberys here blackberys
are geting ripe huckleberys are ripe flowers are plenty
in the city but it is not so easy to get them I will

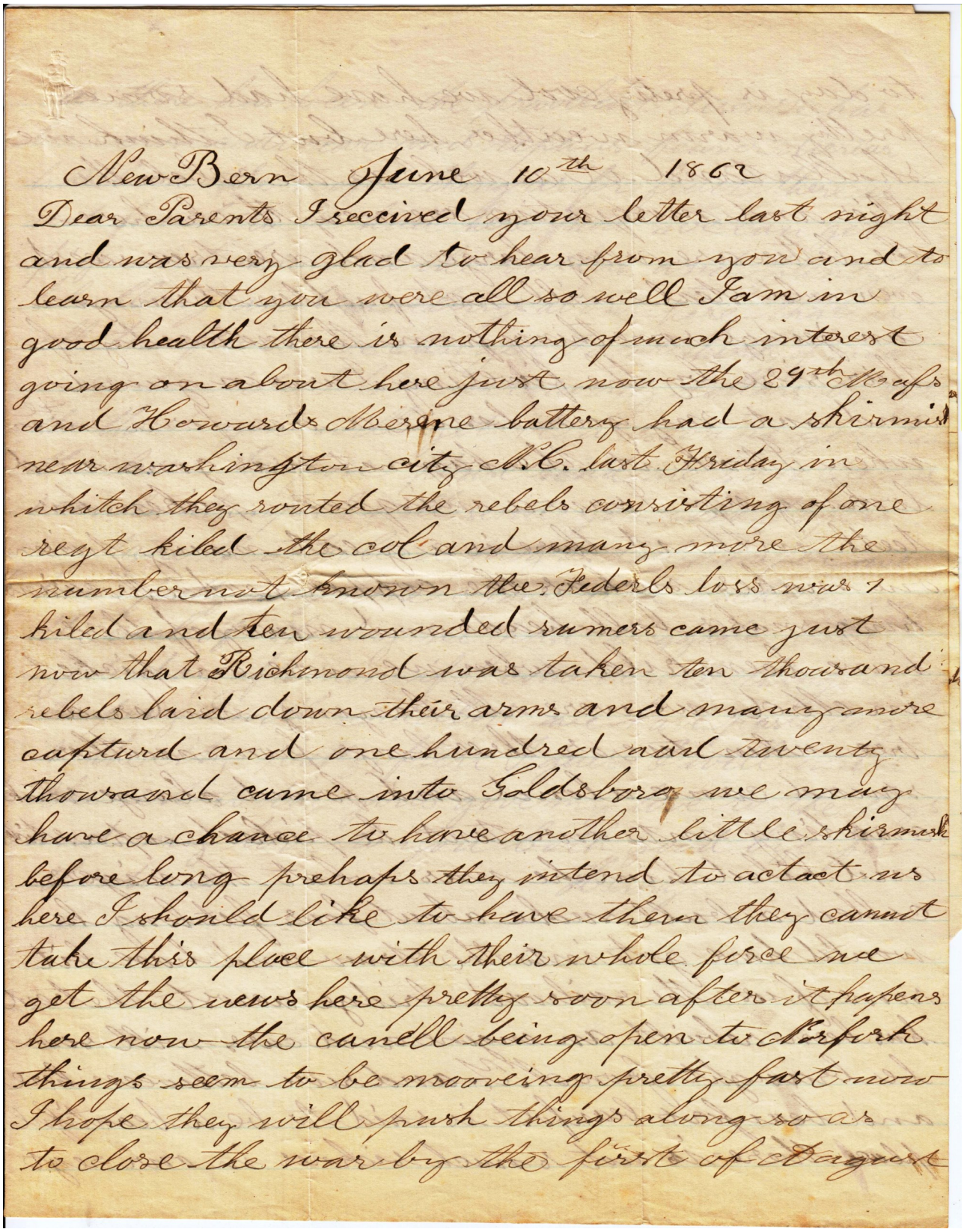
May 19, 1862 (1862.06.19) Page 2 Newbern, NC



get some of the prettiest when I go there again they are building the railroad bridge that was burned acrossed the trent an engine is coming from new york I dont know the man you spoke of in the 11th comp I found a good many things but did not think worth sending home I found a large blanket made of carpeting lined it was a handsome blanket but it was very I traded it for an army blanket and got a dollar to boot I think it was better than to send it home I had a very large knife ver a foot long two edged but I had no sheath and gave it to another below to send home the rebbles had a great many knives and pistles they threw them away at Roanoke or buried them up they were made of iron the 11 comp had a better chance to get things than we did they went to the city as soon as the battle was over and we staid near the battle field and all we got was what we got in the camps you not be afraid to write any thing to me my nerves are strong enough It would make me feel a great deal better to hear that you were all well but if sickness comes I want to know it I hope Electa will be better by the time you get this letter I will try and get out bye and bye and if see any pretty flowers I will pick some the cactus growes here wild it has pretty blooms I dont think of much more to write I thank you for writing all the news I send my love to you all and my respect to all the neighbors good bye for this time from your Son Henry W Brown

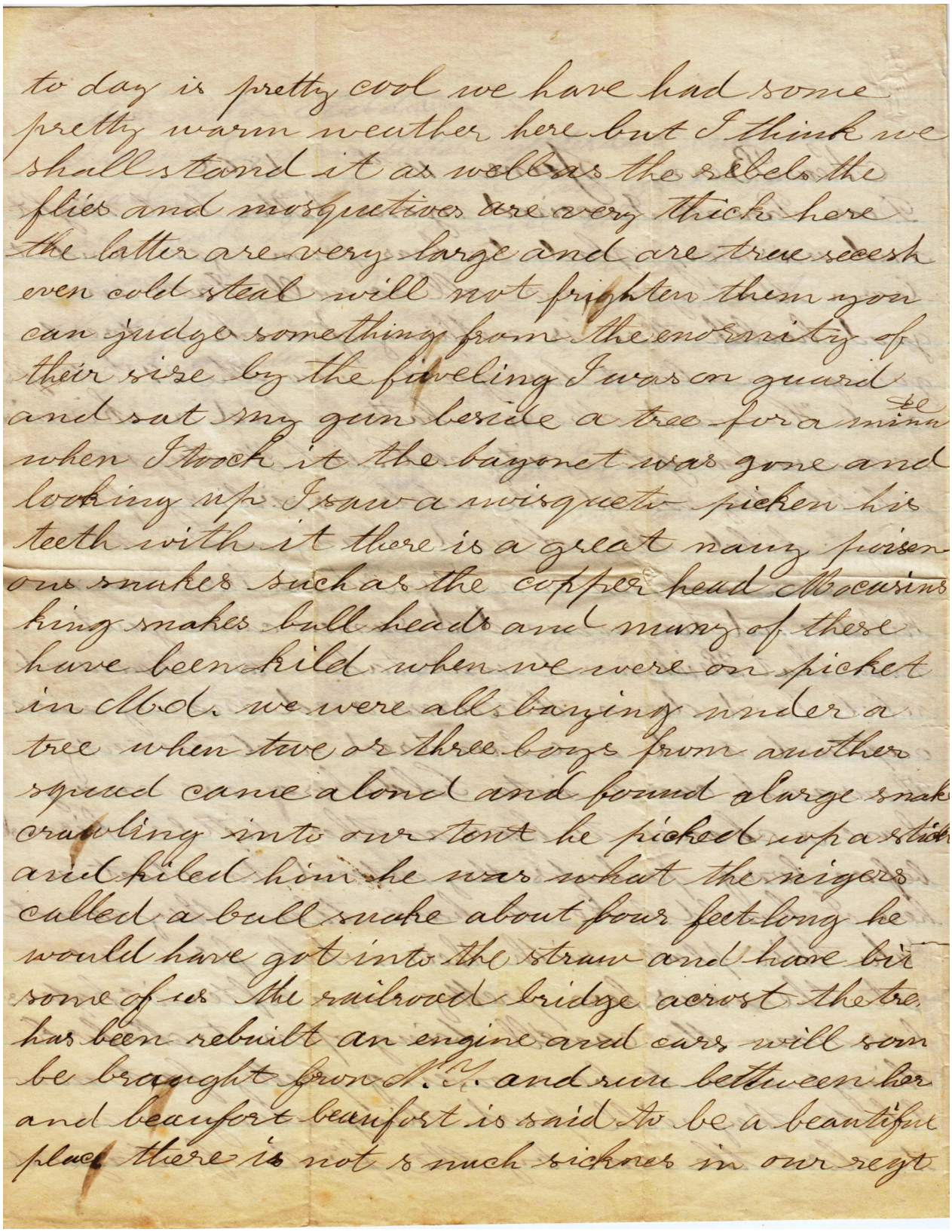
to his dear parents

May 19, 1862 (1862.5.19) Page 4, Newbern, NC



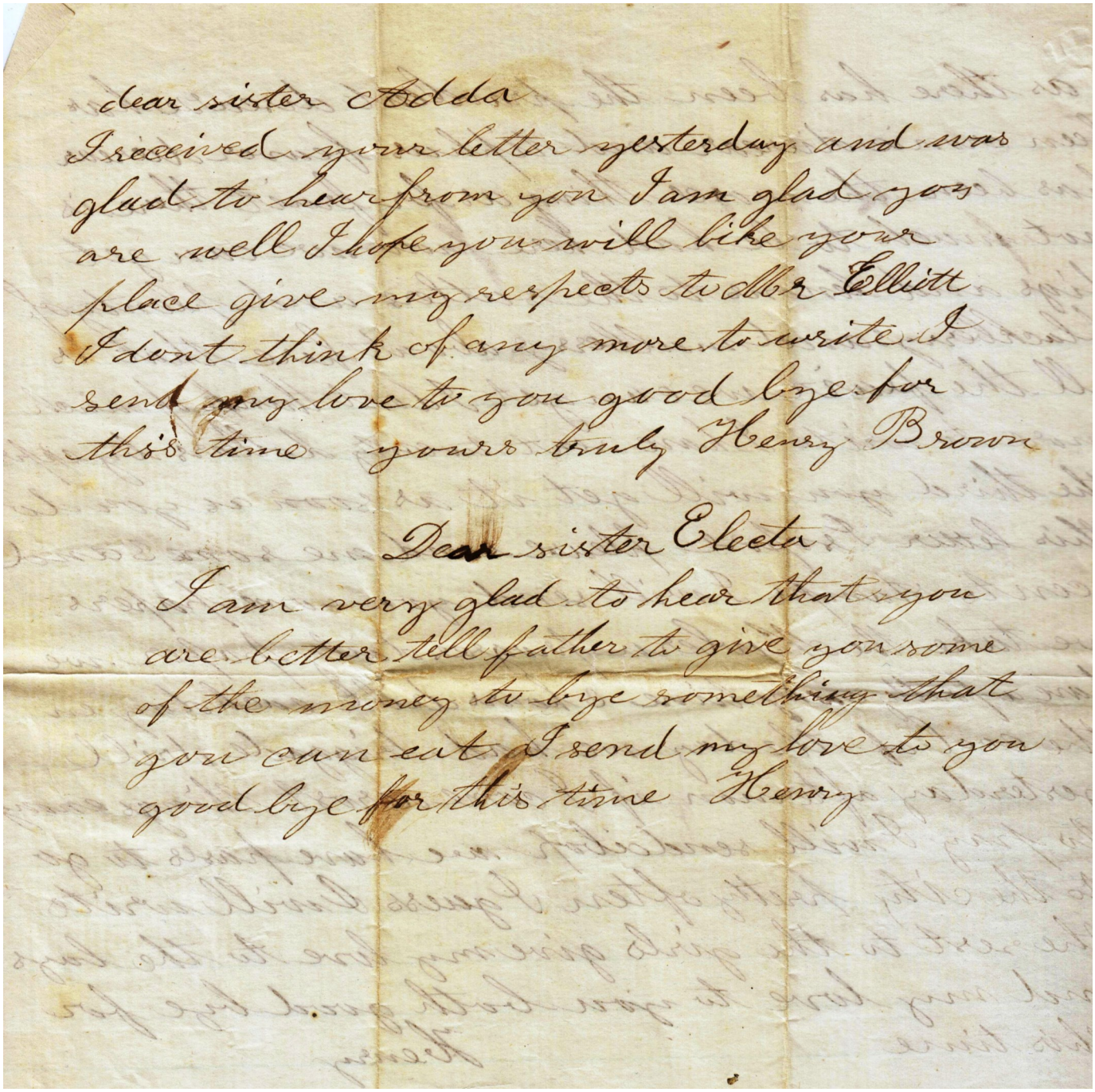
New Bern June 10th 1862
Dear Parents I received your letter last night and was very glad to hear from you and to learn that you were all so well I am in good health there is nothing of much interest going on about here just now the 21st Mass and Howards Marine battery had a skirmish near washington city D.C. last Friday in which they routed the rebels consisting of one regt killed the col and many more the number not known the Federls loss was 1 killed and ten wounded rumers came just now that Richmond was taken ten thousand rebels laid down their arms and many more captured and one hundred and twenty thousand came into Goldsboro we may have a chance to have another little skirmish before long prehaps they intend to attact us here I should like to have them they cannot take this place with their whole force we get the news here pretty soon after it hapens here now the candl being open to Norfork things seem to be mooveing pretty fast now I hope they will push things along so as to close the war by the first of August

June 10, 1862 (1862.6.10) Page 1, Newbern, NC



to day is pretty cool we have had some pretty warm weather here but I think we shall stand it as well as the rebels the flies and mosquetoes are very thick here the latter are very large and are true secesh even cold steal will not frighten them you can judge something from the enormity of their size by the foweling I was on guard and sat my gun beside a tree for a minu when I took it the bayonet was gone and looking up I saw a mosquito picken his teeth with it there is a great many poisen ous snakes such as the copper head Moccasins king snakes bull heads and many of these have been kild when we were on picket in Md. we were all laying under a tree when two or three boys from another squad came along and found a large snak crawling into our tent he picked up a stick and kiled him he was what the nigers called a bull snake about four feet long he would have got into the straw and have bit some of us the railroad bridge across the tre has been rebuilt an engine and cars will soon be brought from N. C. and run between her and beaufort beaufort is said to be a beautiful place there is not so much sickness in our regt

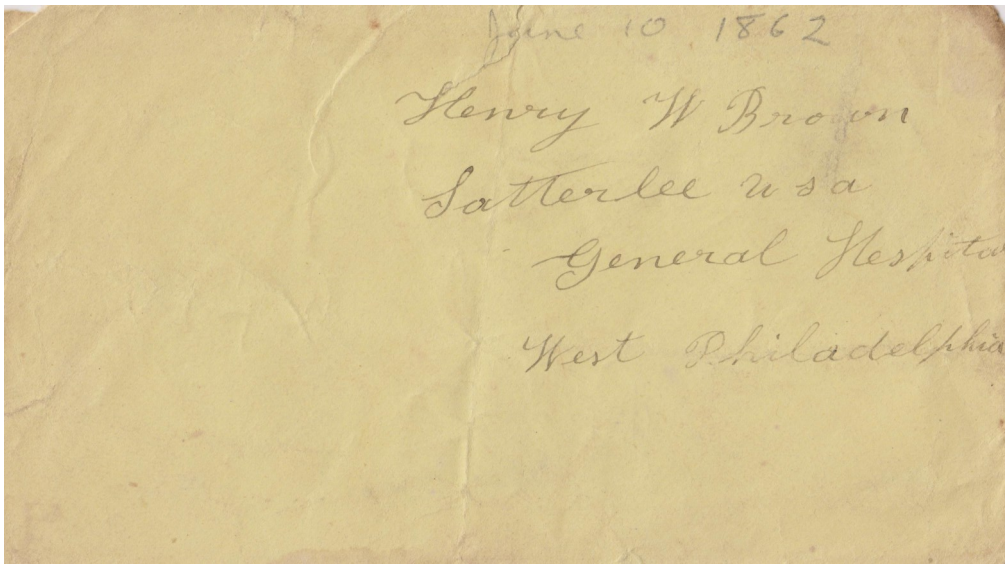
June 10, 1862 (1862.6.10) Page 2, Newbern, NC



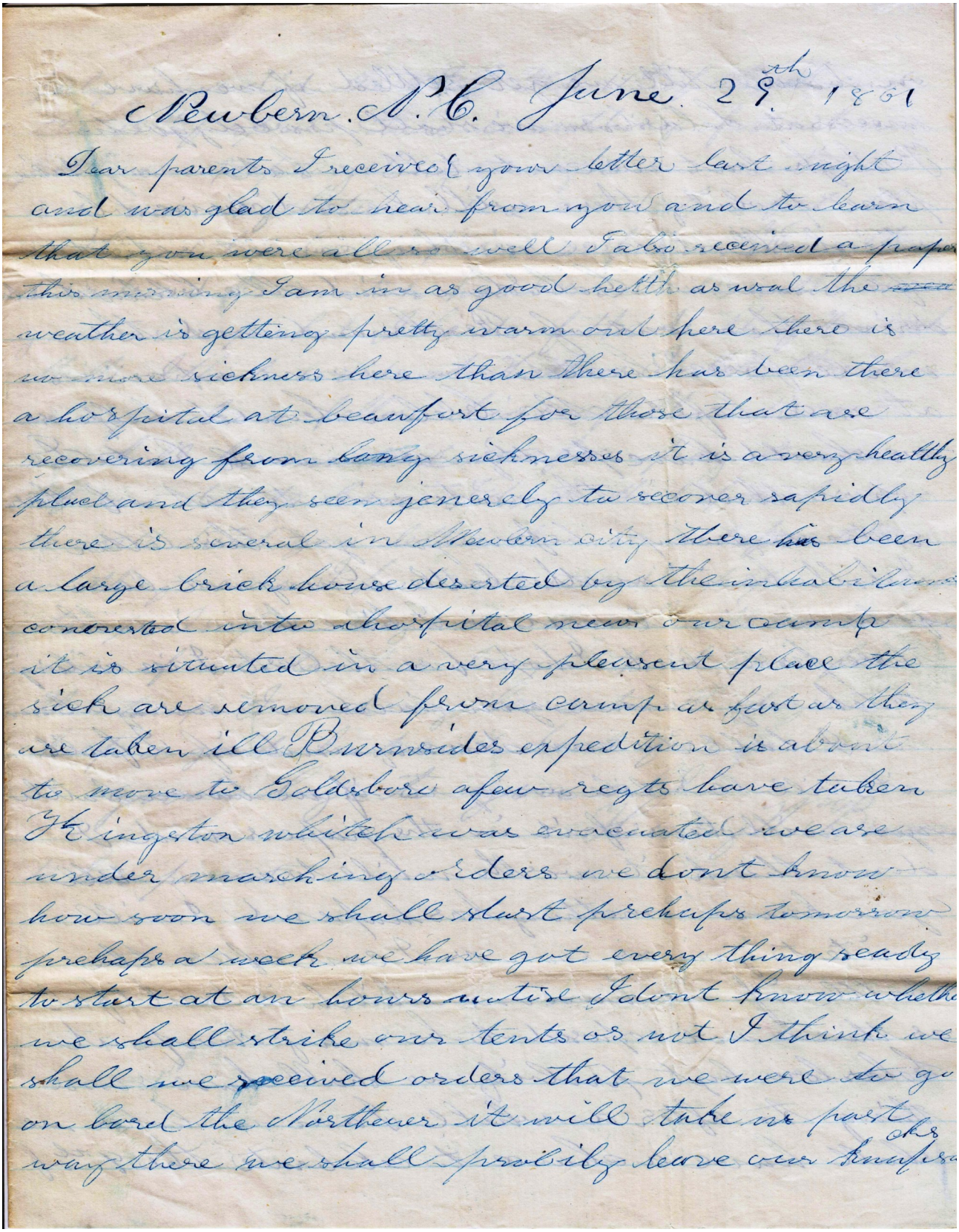
dear sister Adda
I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you I am glad you are well I hope you will like your place give my respects to Mr Elliott I dont think of any more to write I send my love to you good bye for this time yours truly Henry Brown

Dear sister Electa
I am very glad to hear that you are better tell father to give you some of the money to buy something that you can eat I send my love to you good bye for this time Henry

June 10, 1862 (1862.06.10) Page 3, Newbern, NC



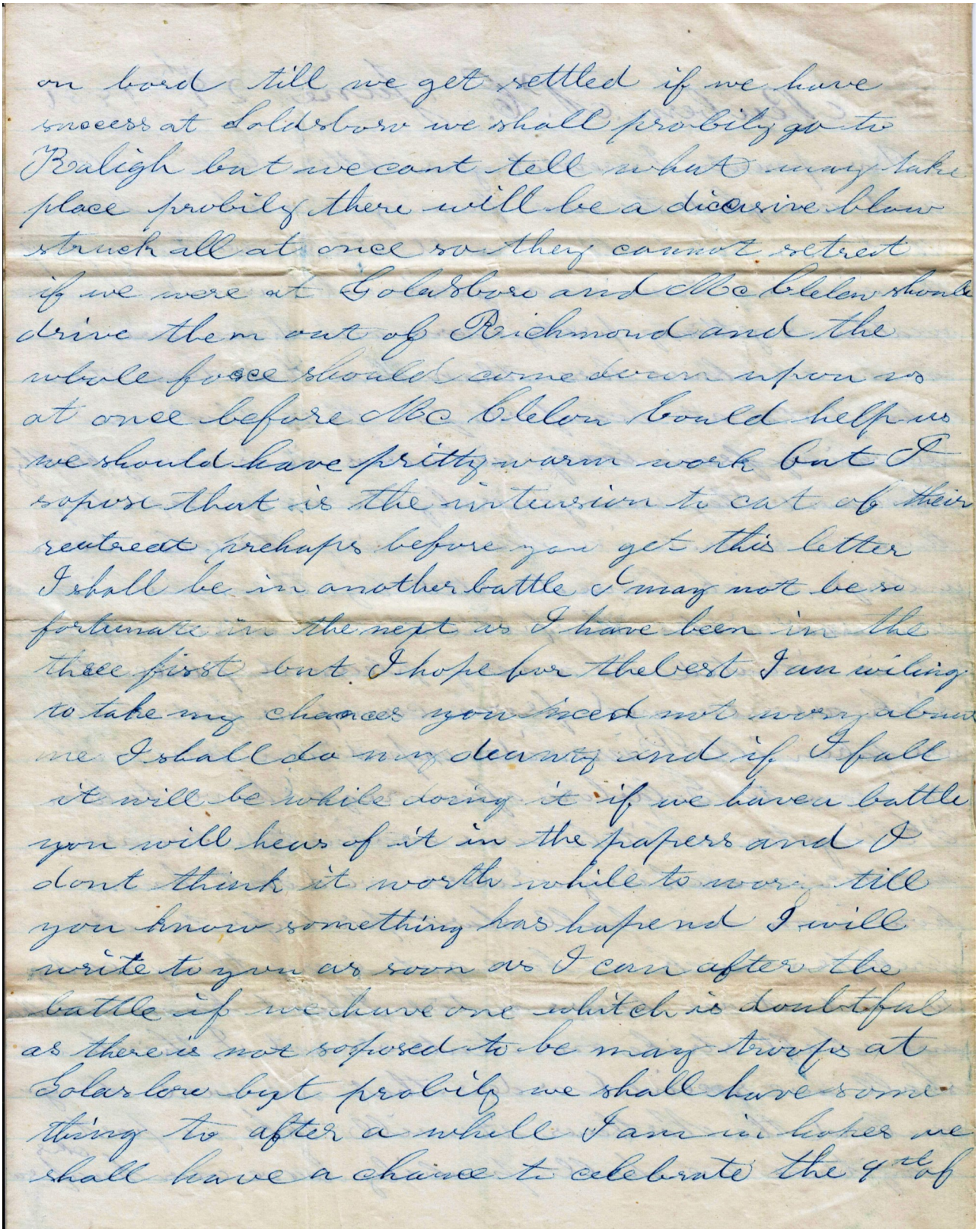
June 10, 1862 (1862.06.10) Envelope, Newbern, NC



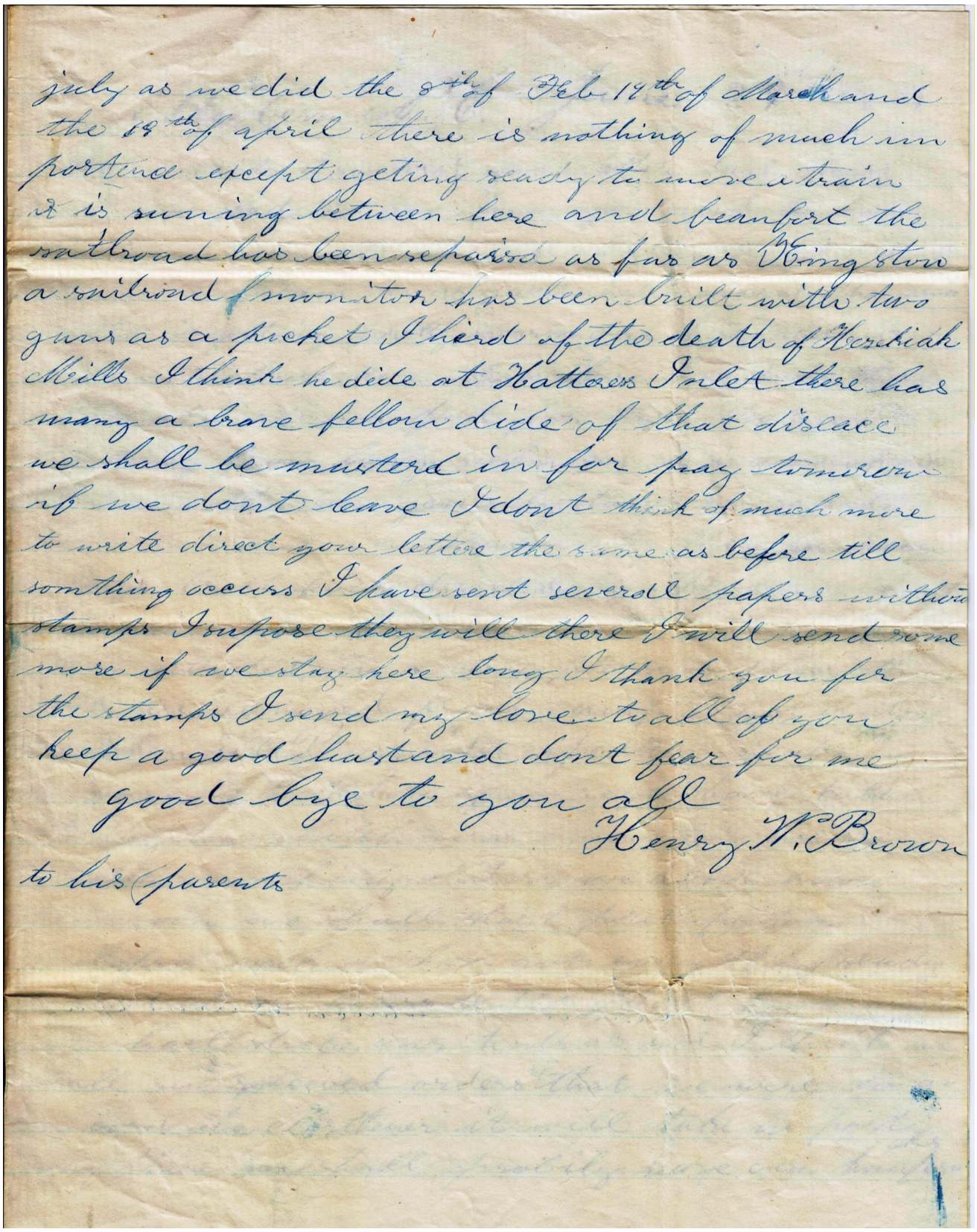
Newbern N.C. June 29th 1862

Dear parents I received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you and to learn that you were all well I also received a paper this morning I am in as good helth as usual the weather is getting pretty warm out here there is no more sickness here than there has been there a hospital at beaufort for those that are recovering from many sicknesses it is a very healthy place and they seen generely to recover rapidly there is several in Newbern city there has been a large brick house deserted by the inhabitants converted into a hospital near our camp it is situated in a very pleasent place the sick are removed from camp as fast as they are taken ill Burnsides expedition is about to move to Goldsboro a few regts have taken Kingston which was evacuated we are under marching orders we dont know how soon we shall start prehaps tomorrow prehaps a week we have got every thing ready to start at an hours notice I dont know whether we shall strike our tents or not I think we shall we received orders that we were to go on bord the Northener it will take no part the way there we shall probibly leave our knapsacks

June 29, 1862 (1862.06.29) Page 1, Newbern, NC

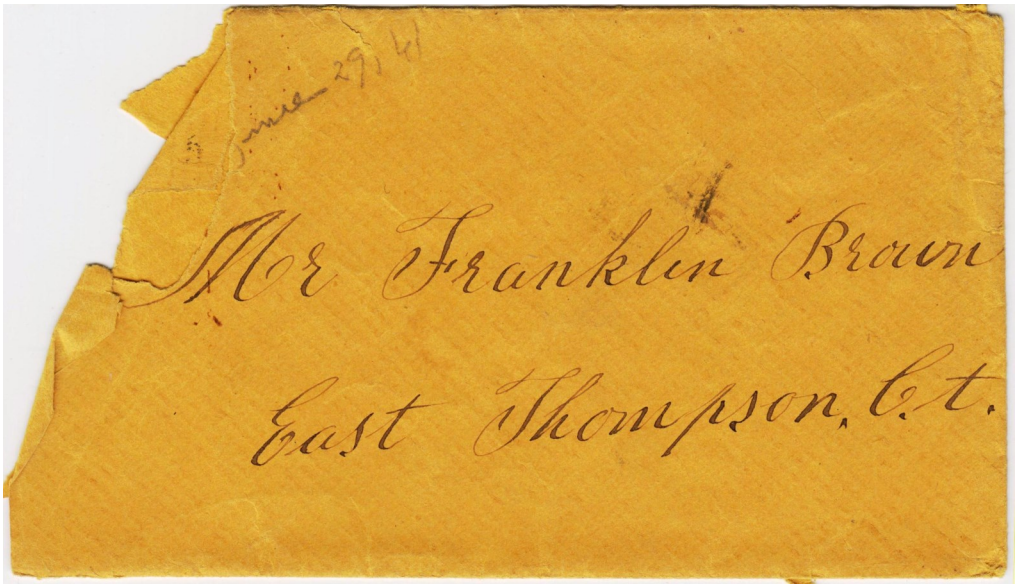


on board till we get settled if we have
success at Goldsboro we shall probily go to
Raligh but we cant tell what may take
place probily there will be a decisive blow
struck all at once so they cannot retreat
if we were at Golasboro and Mc Clelen should
drive them out of Richmond and the
whole force should come down upon us
at once before Mc Clelon could help us
we should have pritty warm work but I
supose that is the intension to cut off their
retreat perhaps before you get this letter
I shall be in another battle I may not be so
fortunate in the next as I have been in the
three first but I hope for the best I am willing
to take my chances you need not worry about
me I shall do my duty and if I fall
it will be while doing it if we have a battle
you will hear of it in the papers and I
dont think it worth while to worry till
you know something has hapend I will
write to you as soon as I can after the
battle if we have one which is doubtful
as there is not supposed to be many troops at
Golasboro but probily we shall have some
thing to after a while I am in hopes we
shall have a chance to celebrate the 4th of

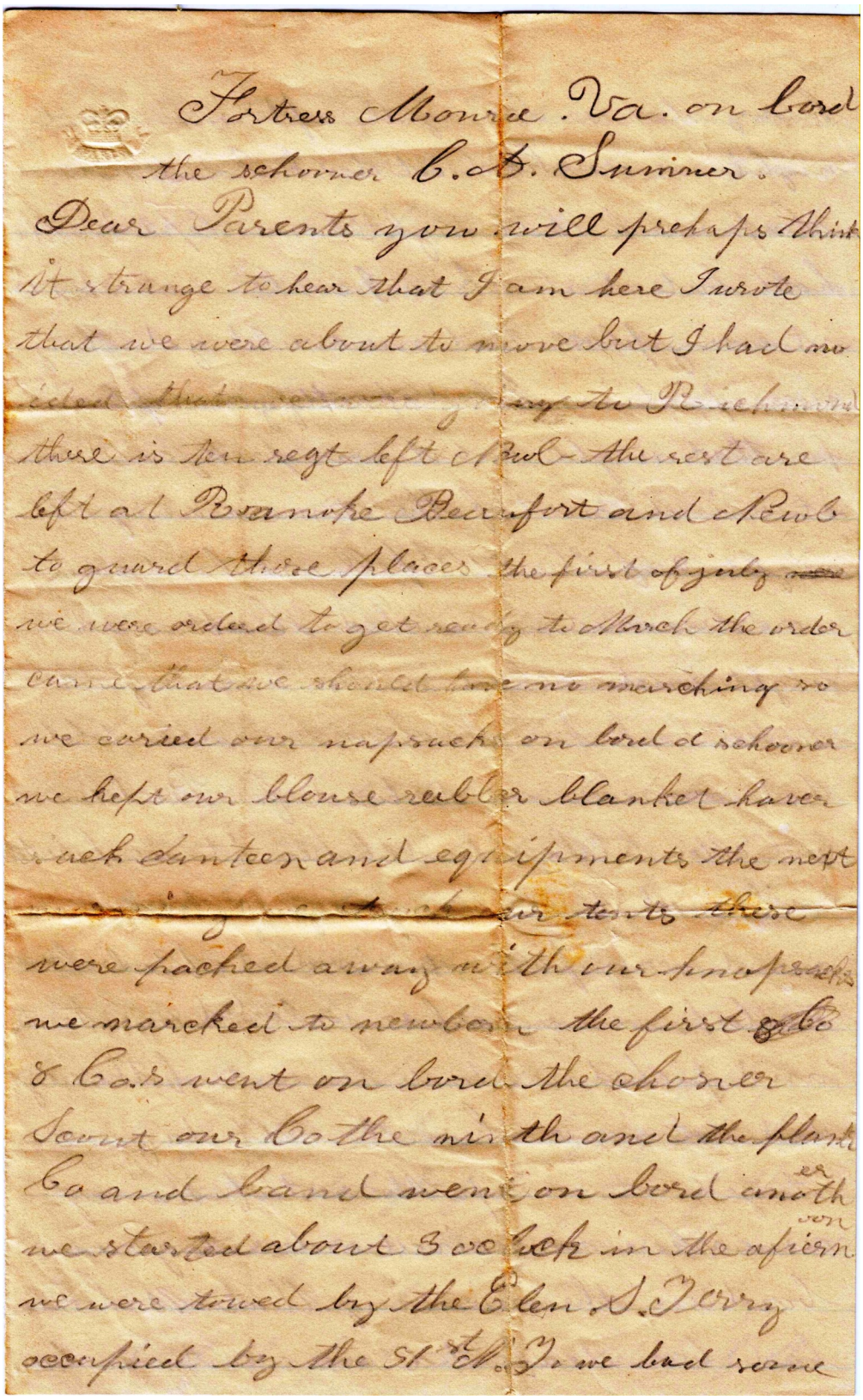


july as we did the 8th of Feb 14th of March and
the 8th of april there is nothing of much im
portend epcept geting ready to move a train
it is suning between here and beanfort the
railroad has been repaird as far as Kingston
a railroad monitor has been built with two
guns as a picket I heard of the death of Hezekiah
Mills I think he dide at Hatteras Inlet there has
many a brave fellow dide of that disace
we shall be mustord in for pay tomorrow
if we dont leave I dont think of much more
to write direct your letters the same as before till
somthing occurs I have sent several papers with
stamps I suppose they will there I will send some
more if we stay here long I thank you for
the stamps I send my love to all of you
keep a good hart and dont fear for me
good bye to you all
Henry W. Brown
to his parents

June 29, 1862 (1862.06.29) Page 3, Newbern, NC

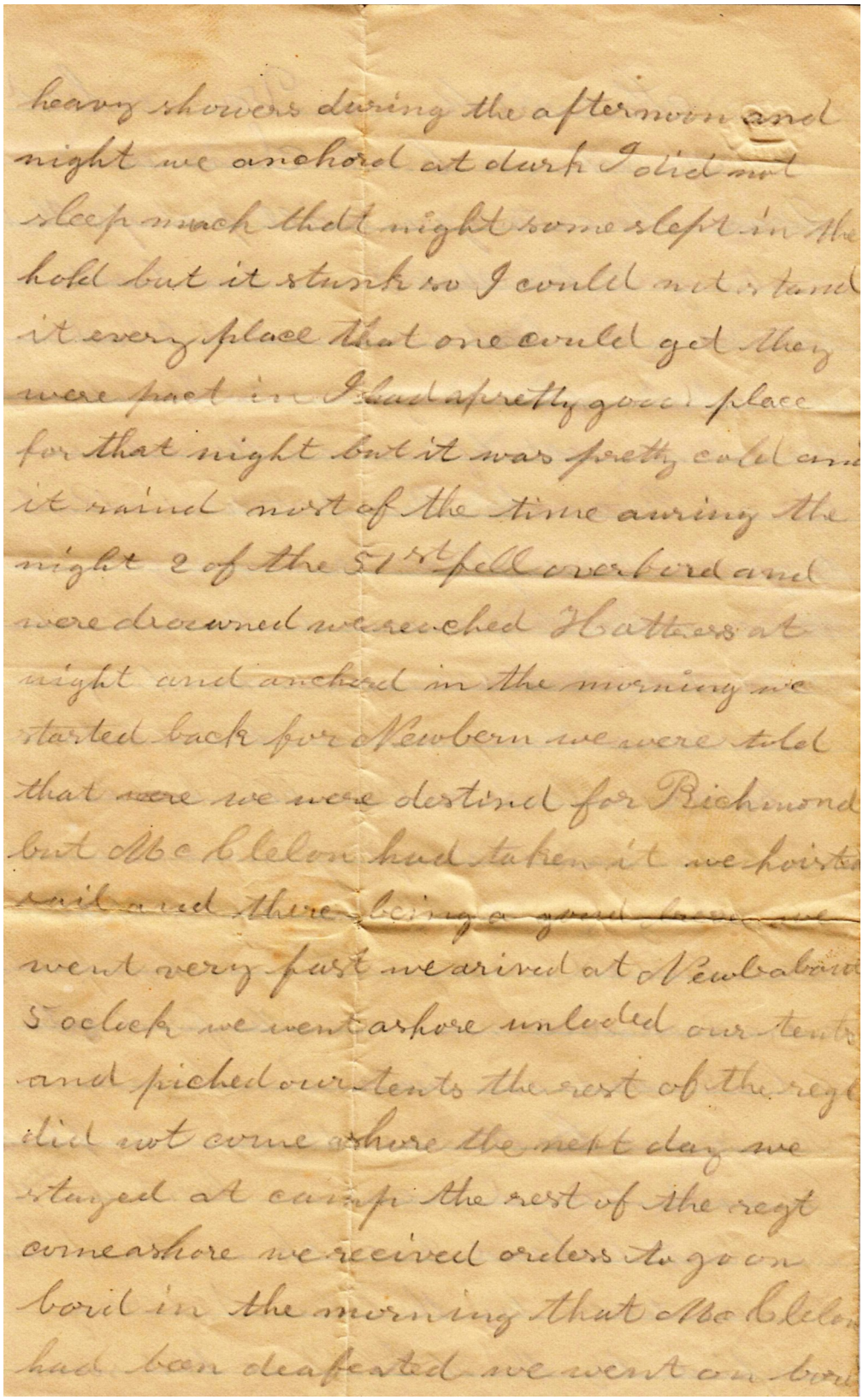


June 29, 1862 (1862.06.29) Envelope, Newbern, NC



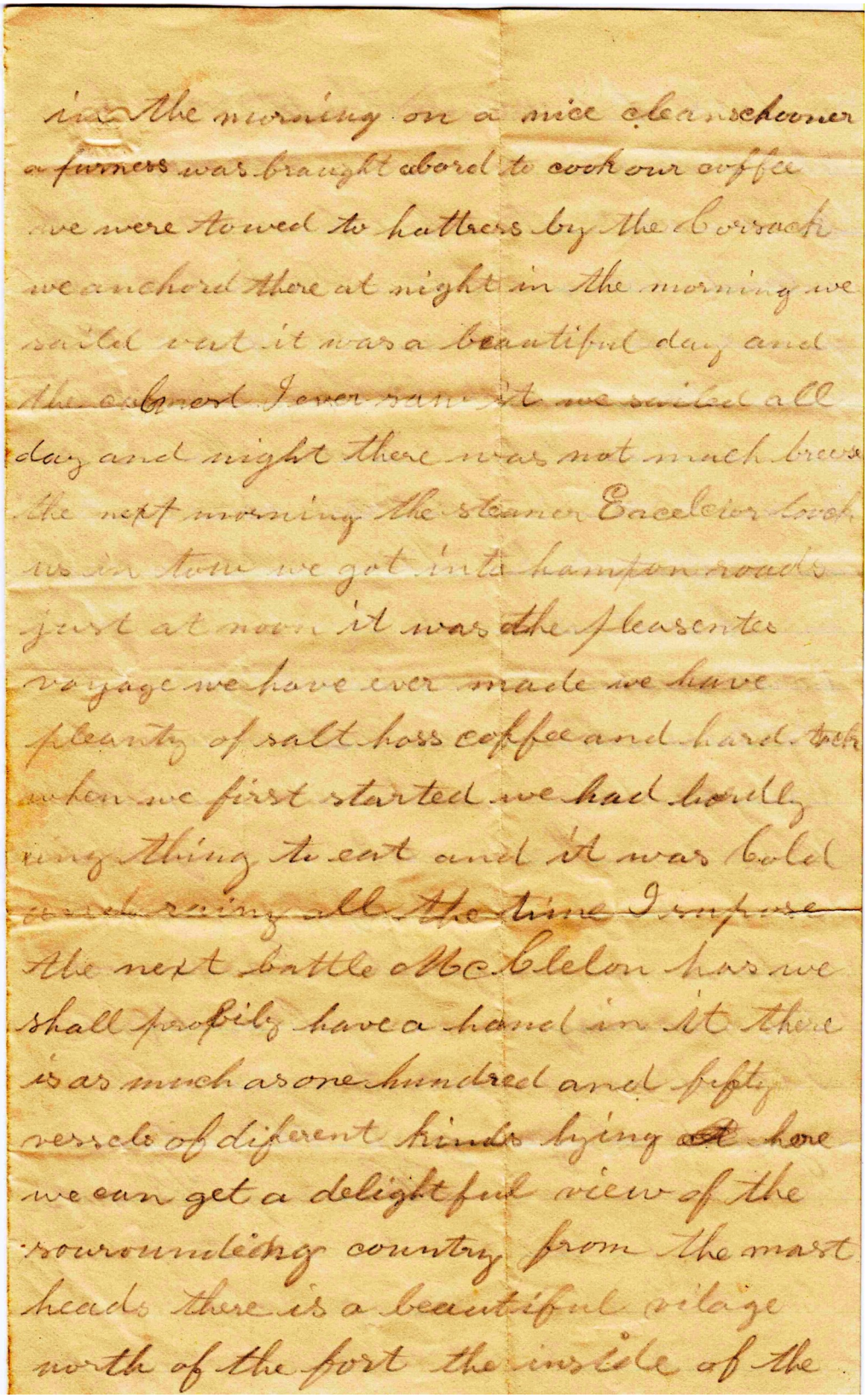
Fortress Monroe. Va. on board
the schooner C. A. S. Sumner.
Dear Parents you will prehaps think
it strange to hear that I am here I wrote
that we were about to move but I had no
idea that [illegible] to Richmond
there is ten regt left Reb the rest are
left at Roanoke Beaufort and Reb
to guard those places the first of July
we were ordered to get ready to March the order
came that we should have no marching so
we carried our napsack on board schooner
we kept our blouse rubber blanket haver
sack canteen and equipments the next
[illegible] our tents these
were packed away with our knapsacks
we marched to newbern the first & 6
& Co.s went on board the schooner
Scout our Co the ninth and the plank
Co and band went on board another
we started about 3 oclock in the afternoon
we were towed by the Ellen S. Terry
accompied by the St. Mary we had some

July 8, 1862 (1862.07.08) Fortress Monroe, VA



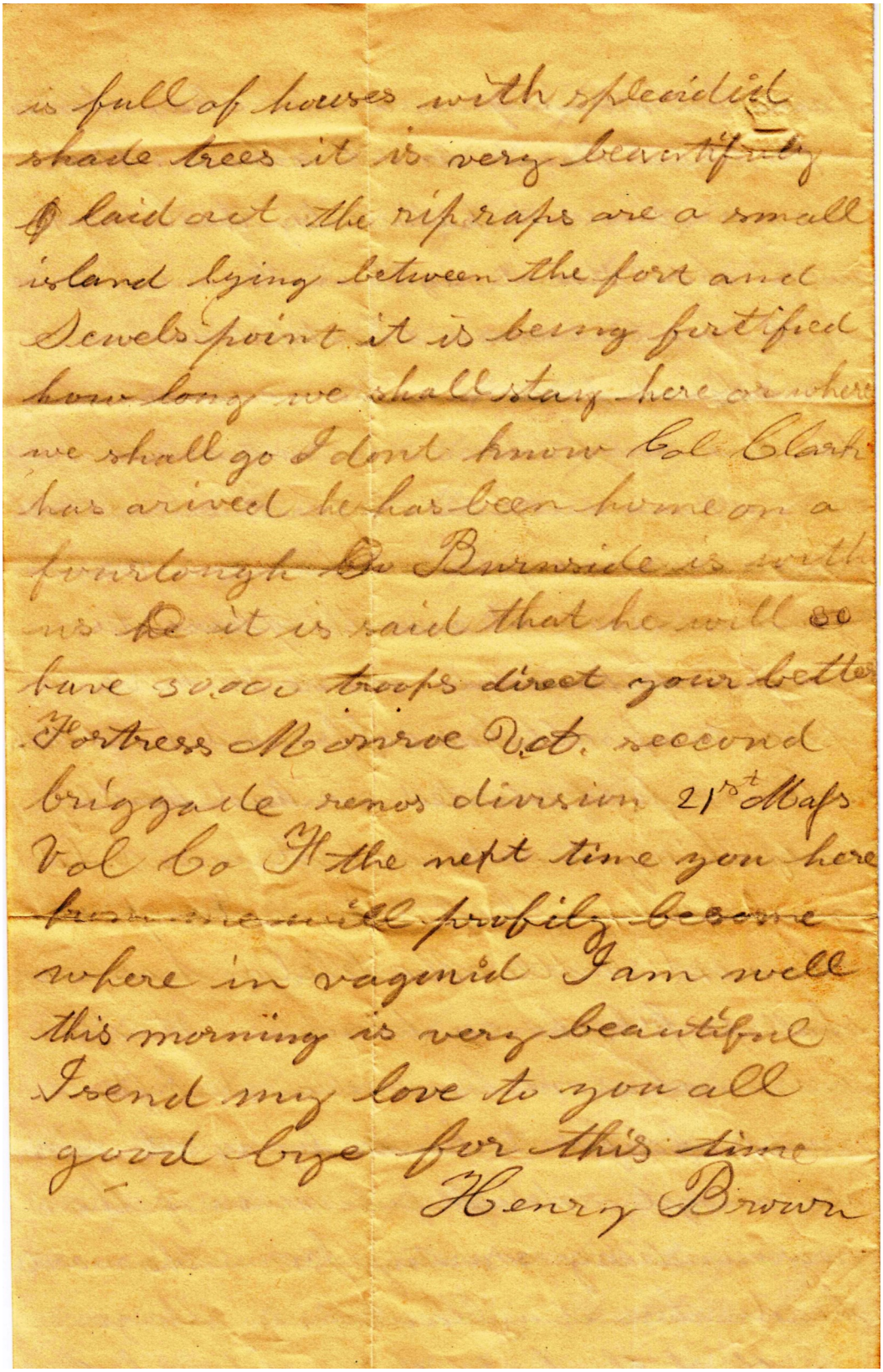
heavy showers during the afternoon and night we anchord at dark I did not sleep much that night some slept in the hold but it stunk so I could not stand it every place that one could get they were past in I had a pretty good place for that night but it was pretty cold and it rained most of the time during the night 2 of the 51st fell overbord and were drowned we reached Hatteras at night and anchord in the morning we started back for Newbern we were told that were we were destind for Richmond but Mc Clelon had taken it we hoisted sail and there being a good breeze we went very fast we arived at Newbern 5 oclock we went ashore unloded our tents and picked our tents the rest of the regt did not come ashore the next day we stayed at camp the rest of the regt come ashore we received orders to go on bord in the morning that Mc Clelon had ben defeated we went on bord

July 8, 1862 (1862.07.08) Page 2, Fortress Monroe, VA



in the morning on a nice clear schooner
a furners was braught aboard to cook our coffee
we were towed to hattrers by the Corsack
we anchord there at night in the morning we
saild out it was a beautiful day and
the calmest I ever saw it we sailed all
day and night there was not much brees
the next morning the steamer Excelsior took
us in tow we got into hampton roads
just at noon it was the pleasentest
voyage we have ever made we have
pleanty of salt hoss coffee and hard tack
when we first started we had hardly
eny thing to eat and it was cold
~~weather all the time I expect~~
the next battle McClelon has we
shall probibly have a hand in it there
is as much as one hundred and fifty
vessels of diferent kinds lying here
we can get a delightful view of the
surrounding country from the mast
heads there is a beautiful vilage
north of the fort the inside of the

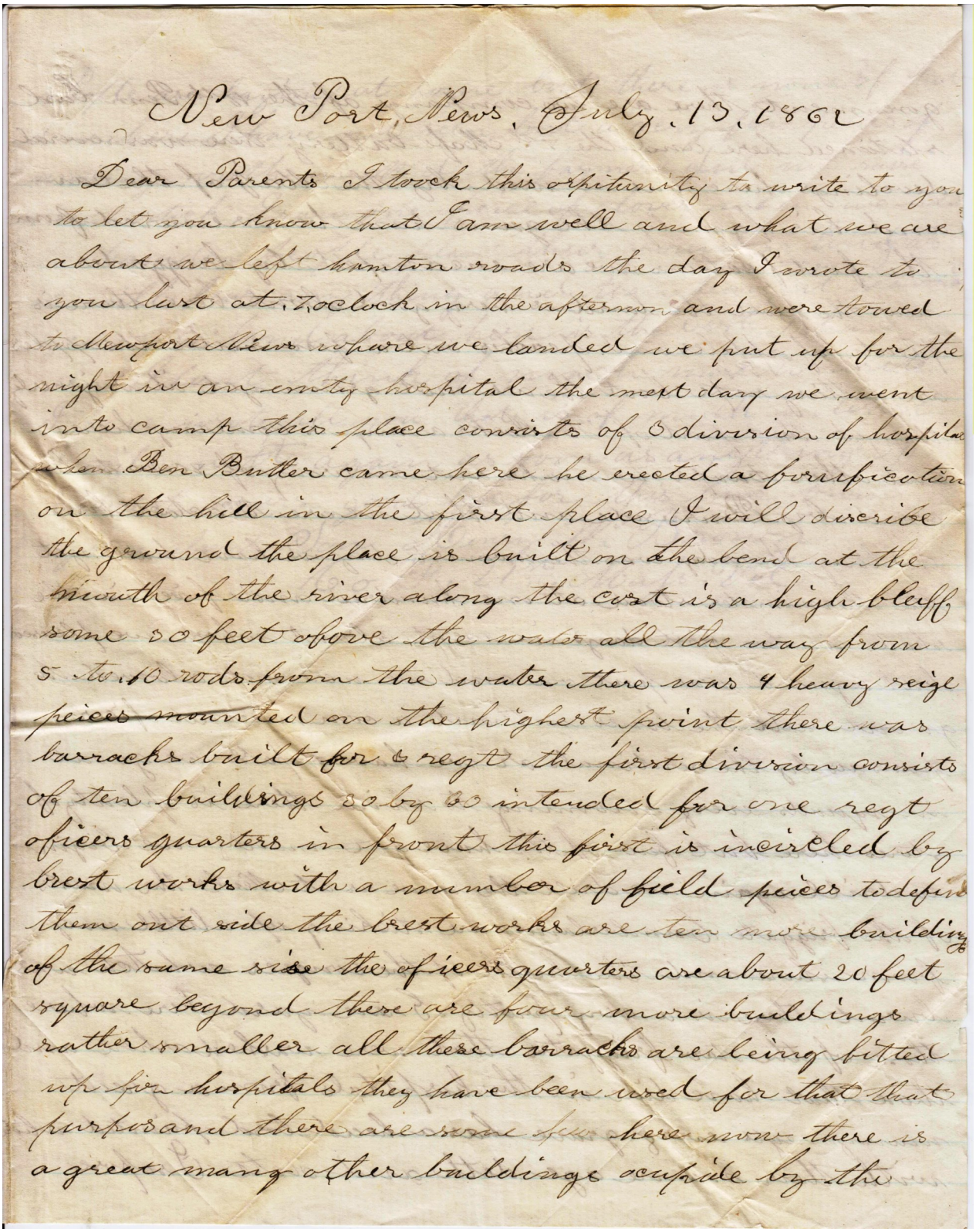
July 8, 1862 (1862.07.08) Page 3, Fortress Monroe, VA



is full of houses with splendid shade trees it is very beautifully laid out the rip raps are a small island lying between the fort and Sewels point it is being fortified how long we shall stay here or where we shall go I dont know Col Clark has arrived he has been home on a fourlough Gen Burnside is with us he it is said that he will so have 50,000 troops direct your letter Fortress Monroe Va. reccond brigade reno's division 21st Mass Vol Co H the nept time you here from me will probly become where in ragenid I am well this morning is very beautiful I send my love to you all good bye for this time

Henry Brown

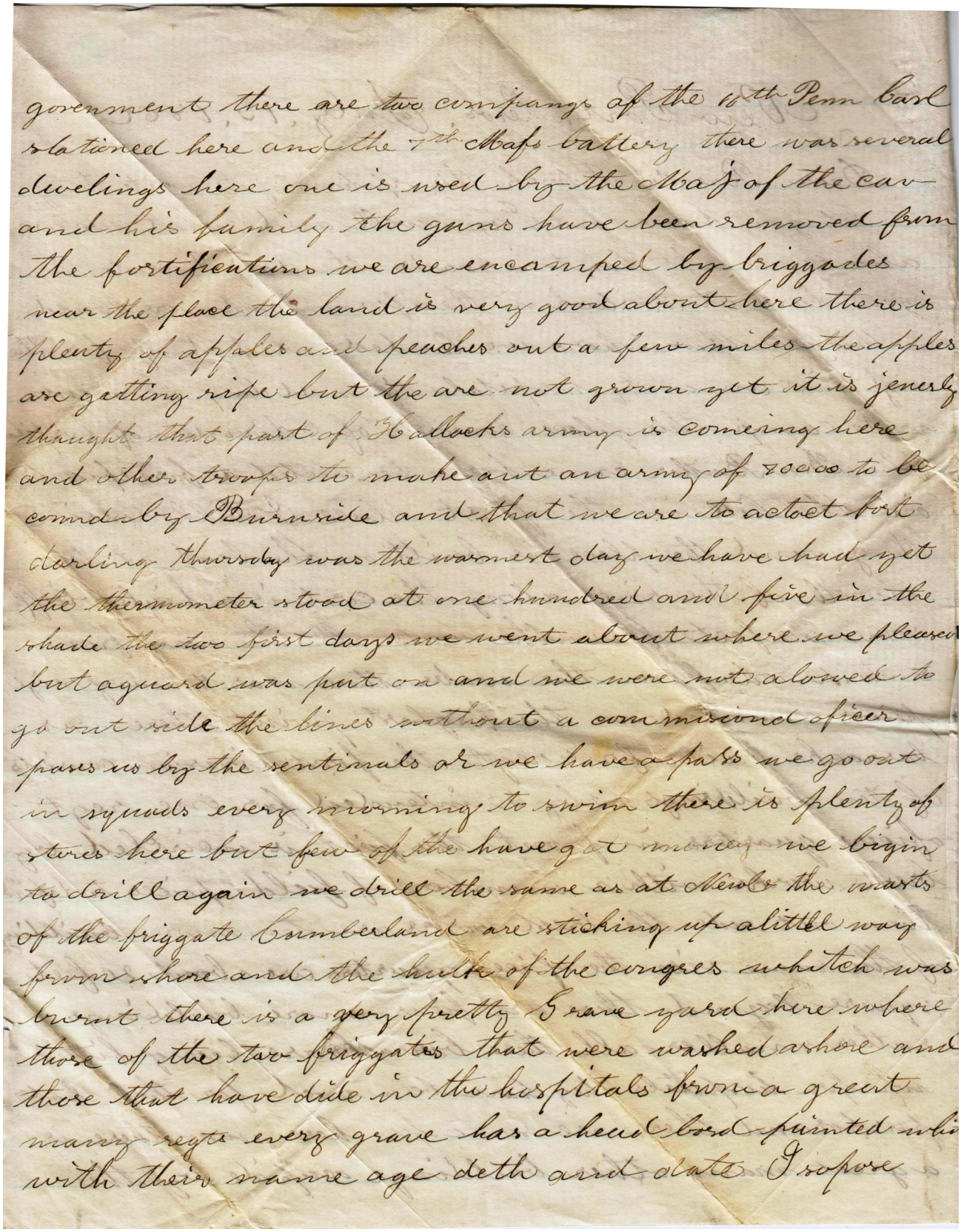
July 8, 1862 (1862.07.08) Page 4, Fortress Monroe, VA



New Port News, July 13, 1862

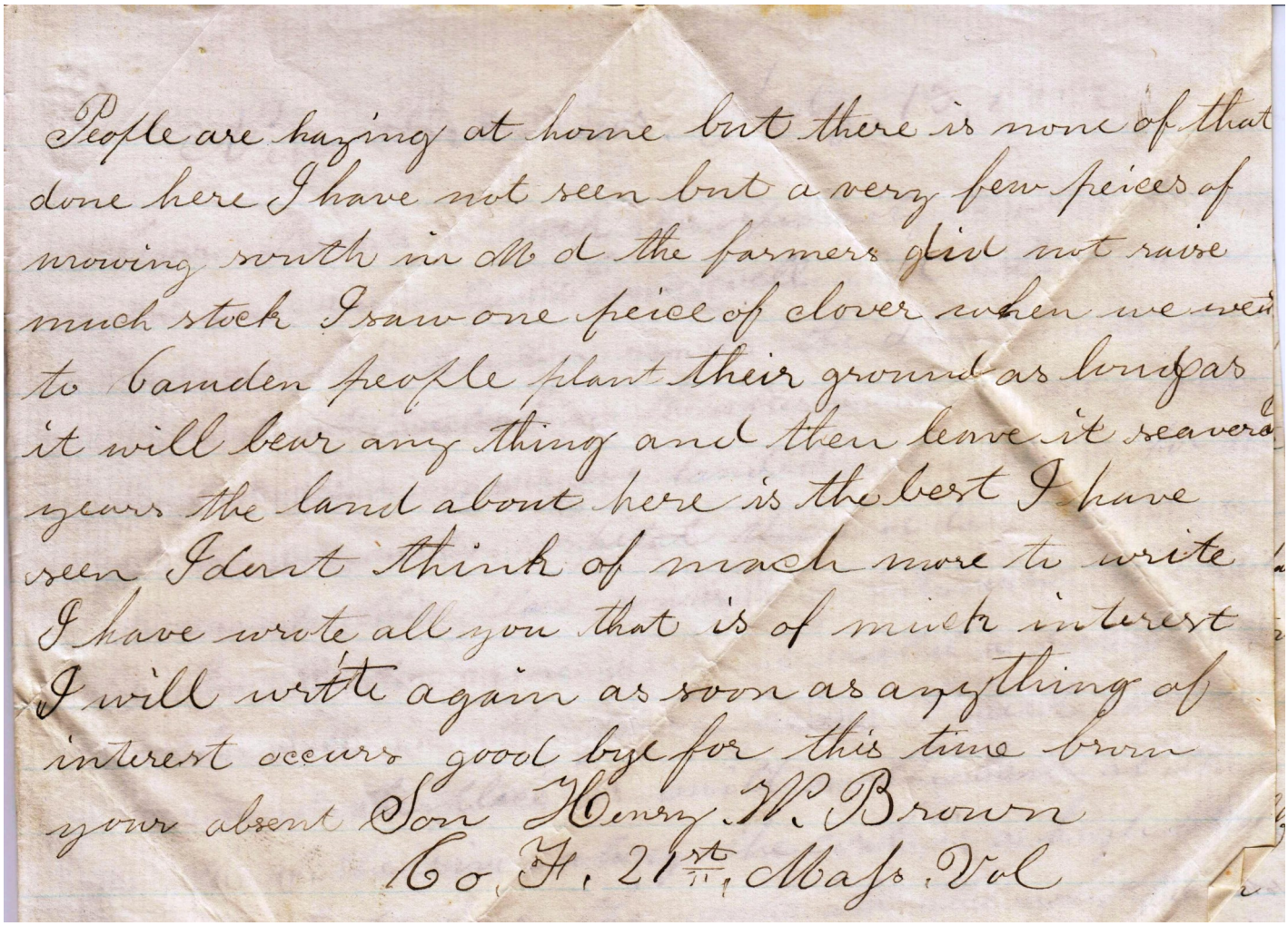
Dear Parents I took this opitunity to write to you to let you know that I am well and what we are about we left hamton roads the day I wrote to you last at 2 oclock in the afternon and were towed to Newport News where we landed we put up for the night in an emty hospital the next day we went into camp this place consists of 6 division of hospitals when Ben Butler came here he erected a fortification on the hill in the first place I will discribe the ground the place is built on the bend at the mouth of the river along the cost is a high bleff some 30 feet above the water all the way from 5 to 10 rods from the water there was 4 heavy reige ~~peices mounted~~ on the highest point there was barracks built for 6 regt the first division consists of ten buildings 30 by 60 intended for one regt officers quarters in front this first is incircled by brest works with a number of field peices to defend them out side the brest works are ten more buildings of the same size the officers quarters are about 20 feet square beyond these are four more buildings rather smaller all these barracks are being fitted up for hospitals they have been used for that that purpos and there are some sick here now there is a great many other buildings occupide by the

July 13, 1862 (1862.07.13) Page 1, Newport News, VA



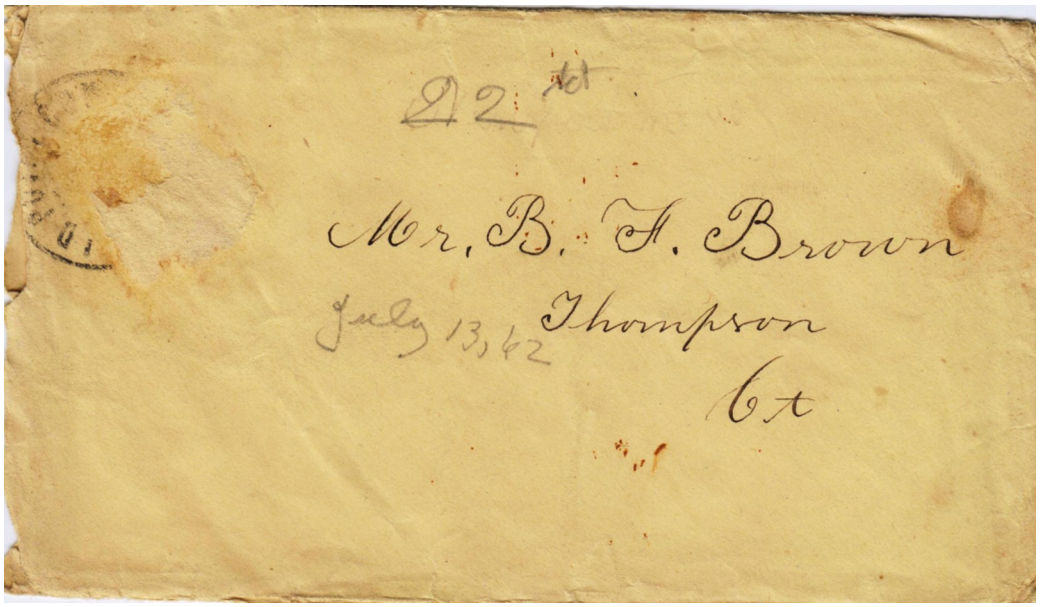
government there are two compangs of the 10th Penn Cavl
stationed here and the 7th Mass battery there was several
dwelings here one is used by the Maj of the cav
and his family the guns have been removed from
the fortifications we are encamped by briggades
near the place the land is very good about here there is
plenty of appales and peaches out a few miles the apples
are getting ripe but the are not grown yet it is jenerly
thought that part of Hallecks army is comeing here
and other troops to make out an army of 70000 to be
comd by Burnside and that we are to actoct Port
darling thursday was the warmest day we have had yet
the thermometer stood at one hundred and five in the
shade the two first days we went about where we pleased
but a guard was put on and we were not alowed to
go out side the lines without a commisiond ofiser
pases us by the sentinals or we have a pass we go out
in squads every morning to swim there is plenty of
stores here but few of the have got money we bigin
to drill again we drill the same as at Newp the masts
of the frigate Cumberland are sticking up a little way
from shore and the hulk of the congres which was
burnt there is a very pretty Grave yard here where
those of the two frigates that were washed ashore and
those that have dide in the hospitals from a great
many regts every grave has a head board painted whi
with their name age deth and date I suppose

July 13, 1862 (1862.07.13) Page 2, Newport News, VA

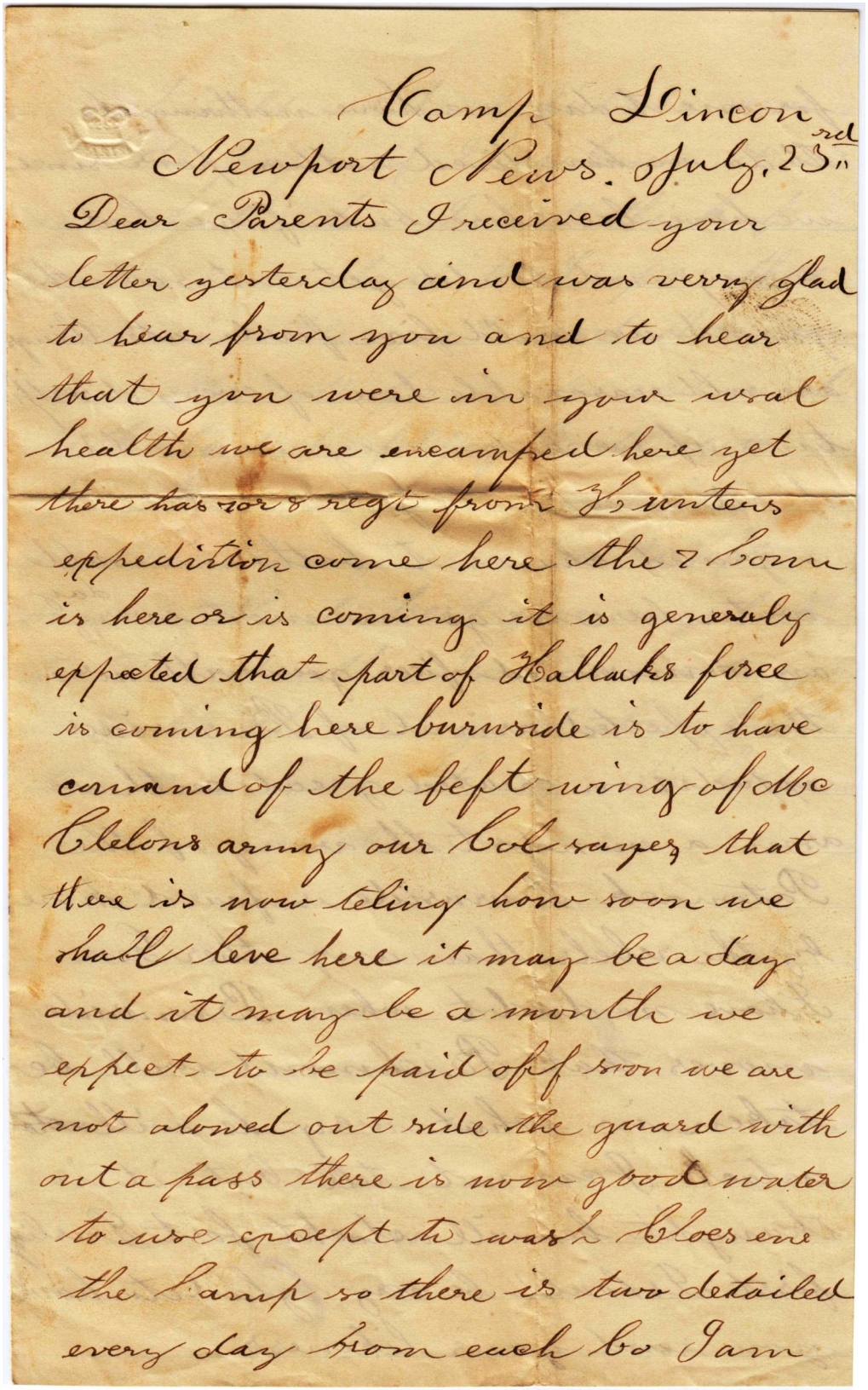


People are haying at home but there is none of that done here I have not seen but a very few peices of mowing south in Md the farmers did not raise much stock I saw one peice of clover when we went to Camden people plant their ground as long as it will bear any thing and then leave it several years the land about here is the best I have seen I dont think of much more to write I have wrote all you that is of much interest I will write again as soon as anything of interest occurs good bye for this time from your absent Son Henry W. Brown
Co. F. 21st Regt Mass. Vol

July 13, 1862 (1862.07.13) Page 3, Newport News, VA

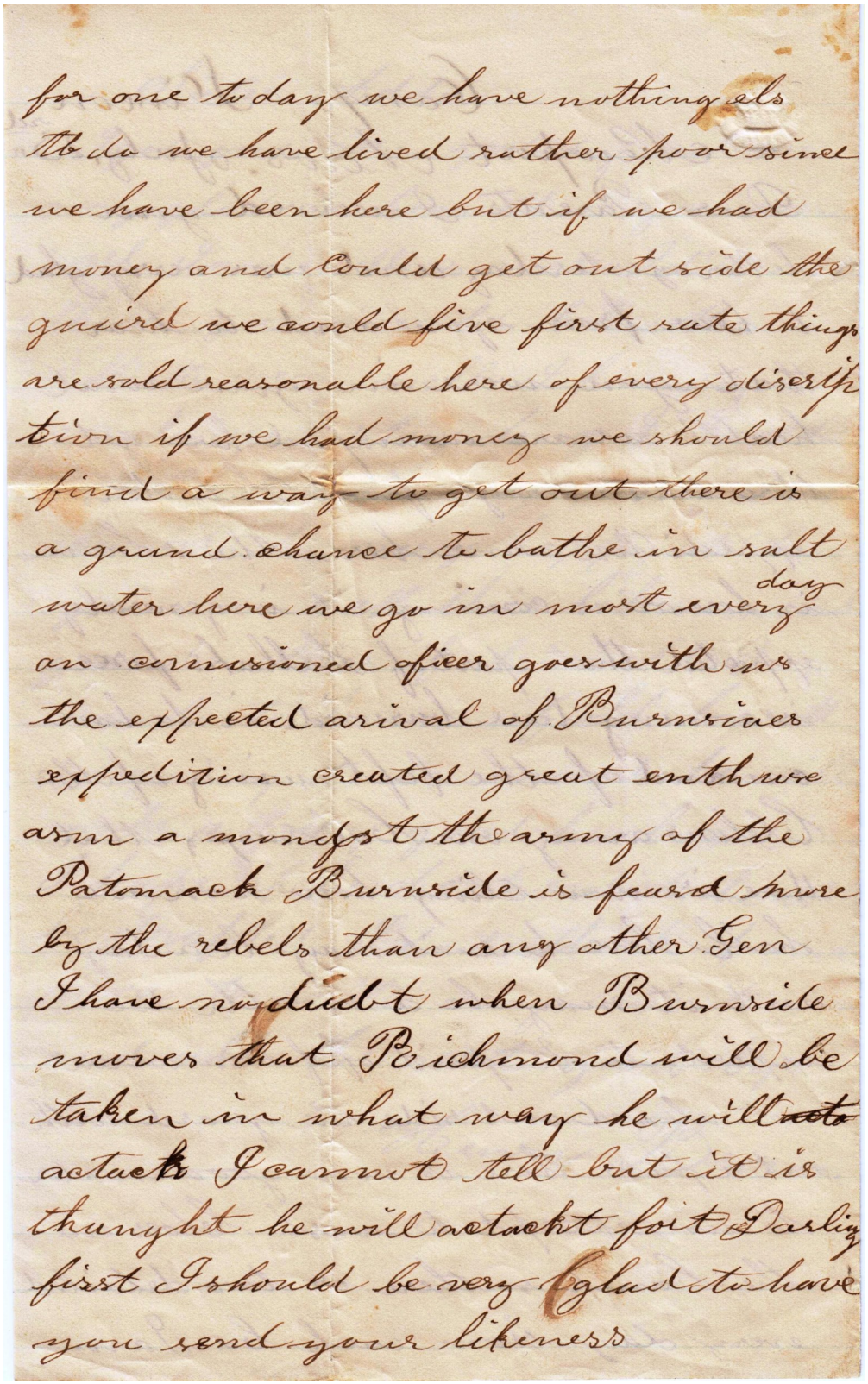


July 13, 1862 (1862.07.13) Envelope, Newport News, VA



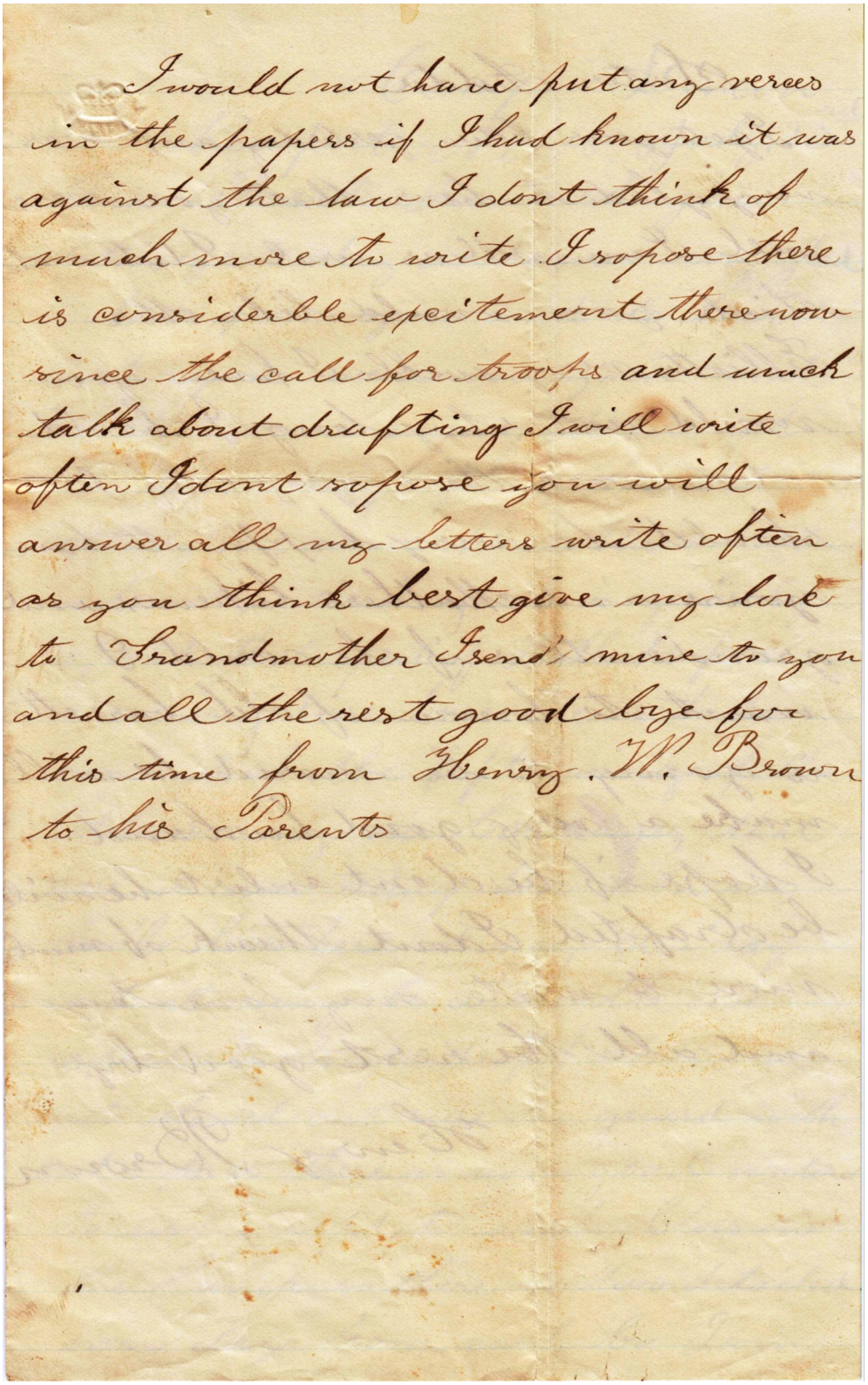
Camp Lincon 3rd
Newport News. July. 23"
Dear Parents I received your
letter yesterday and was verry glad
to hear from you and to hear
that you were in your usal
health we are encamped here yet
there has not ben reg from Hunters
eppedition come here the 7 Conn
is here or is coming it is generaly
eppected that part of Hallacks force
is coming here burnside is to have
comand of the left wing of McClelons army our Col says that
there is now teling how soon we
shall leve here it may be a day
and it may be a month we
eppect to be paid off soon we are
not alowed out side the guard with
out a pass there is now good water
to use except to wash Cloes ore
the Camp so there is two detailed
every day from each Co Jam

July 23, 1862 (1862.07.23) Page 1, Camp Lincoln, Newport News, VA



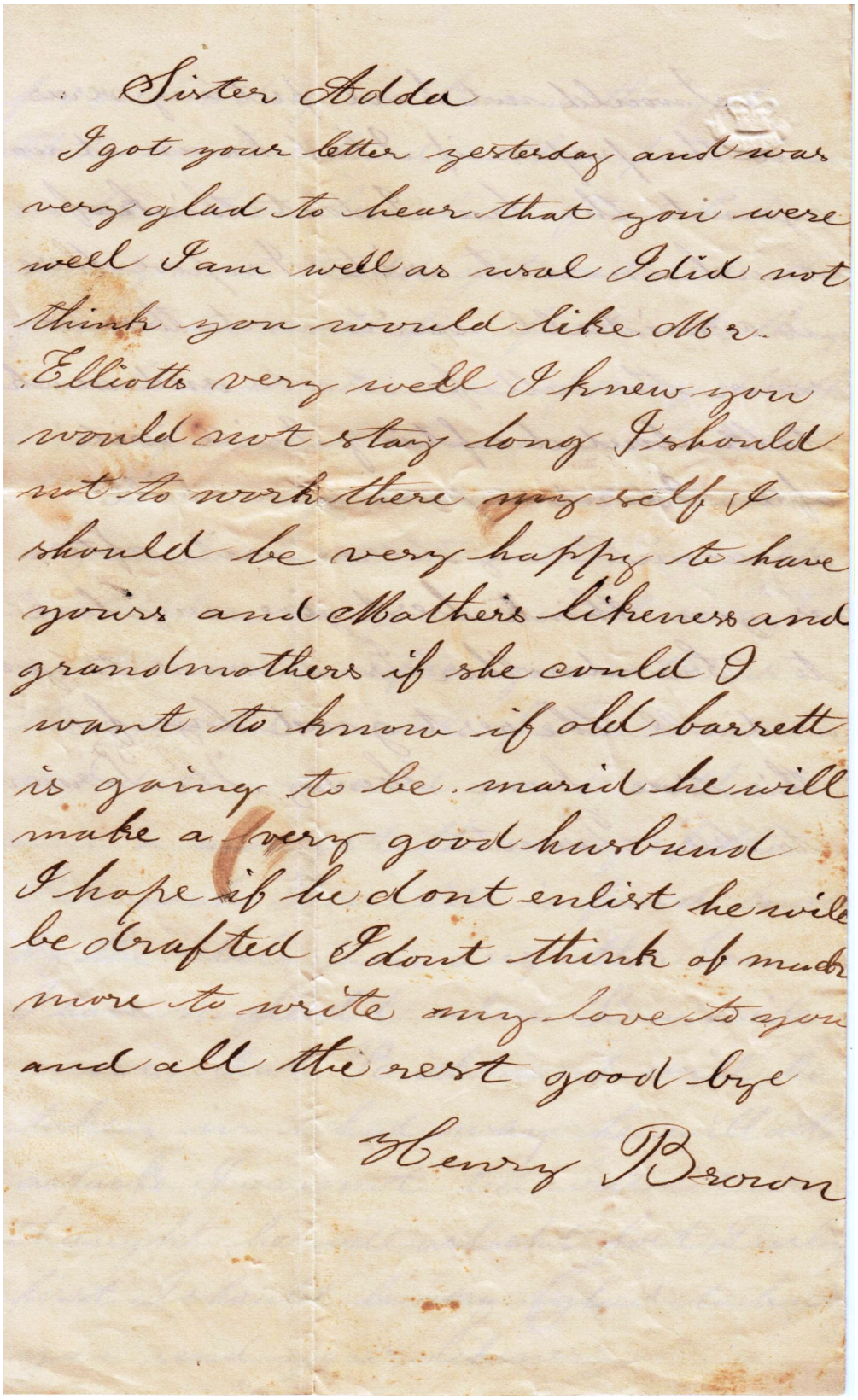
for one to day we have nothing els
tto do we have lived rather poor since
we have been here but if we had
money and could get out side the
guard we could five first rate things
are sold reasonable here of every diserip
tion if we had money we should
find a way to get out there is
a grand chance to bathe in salt
water here we go in most every day
an commissioned ofieer goes with us
the epected arival of Burnsides
expedition created great enthusiasm
amongst the army of the
Potomack Burnside is feard more
by the rebels than any other Gen
I have no doubt when Burnside
moves that Richmond will be
taken in what way he will ~~to~~
attack I cannot tell but it is
thaught he will attackt foit Darling
first I should be very glad to have
you send your likeness

Juy 23, 1862 (1862.07.23) Page 2, Camp Lincoln, Newport News, VA



I would not have put any verses
in the papers if I had known it was
against the law I dont think of
much more to write I supose there
is considerble epitement there now
since the call for troops and much
talk about drafting I will write
often Idont supose you will
answer all my letters write often
as you think best give my love
to Grandmother I send mine to you
and all the rest good bye for
this time from Henry W. Brown
to his Parents

July 23, 1862 (1862.07.23) Page 3, Camp Lincoln, Newport News, VA

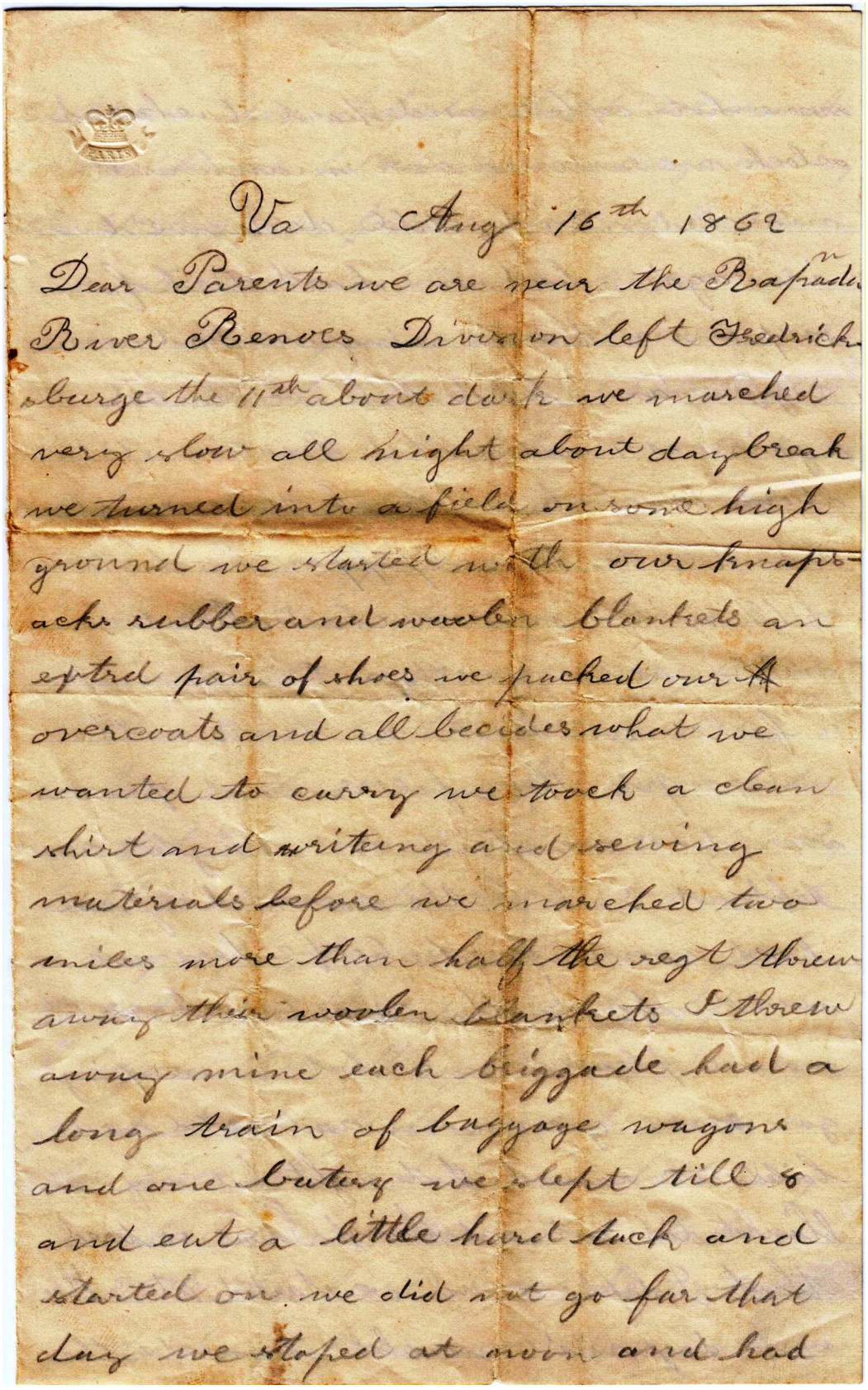


Sister Addie

I got your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear that you were well I am well as usual I did not think you would like Mr. Elliotts very well I knew you would not stay long I should not to work there my self I should be very happy to have yours and Mathers likeness and grandmothers if she could I want to know if old barrett is going to be maried he will make a very good husband I hope if he dont enlist he will be drafted I dont think of much more to write my love to you and all the rest good bye

Henry Brown

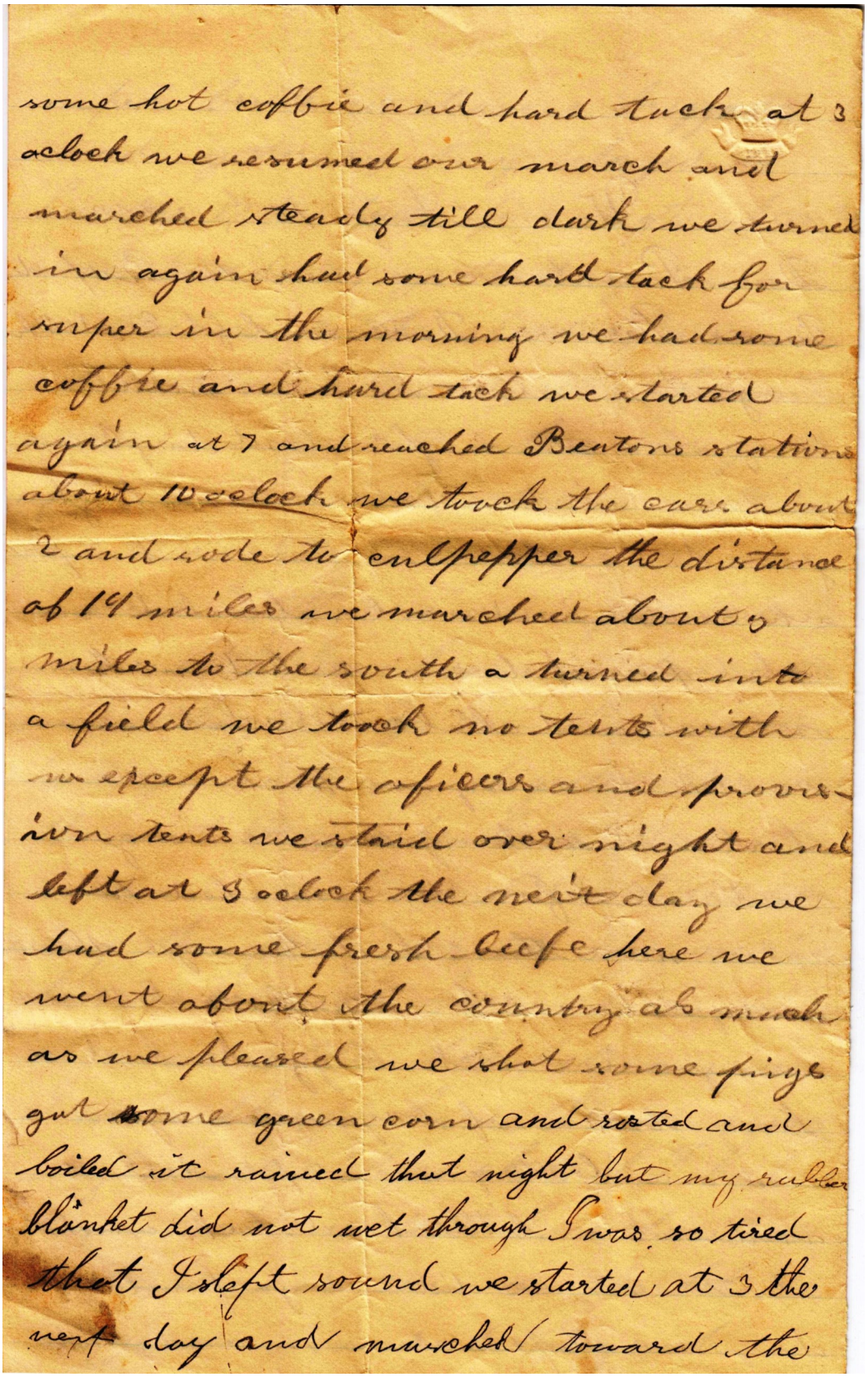
July 23, 1862 (1862.07.23) Page 4, Camp Lincoln, Newport News, VA



Va Aug 16th 1862

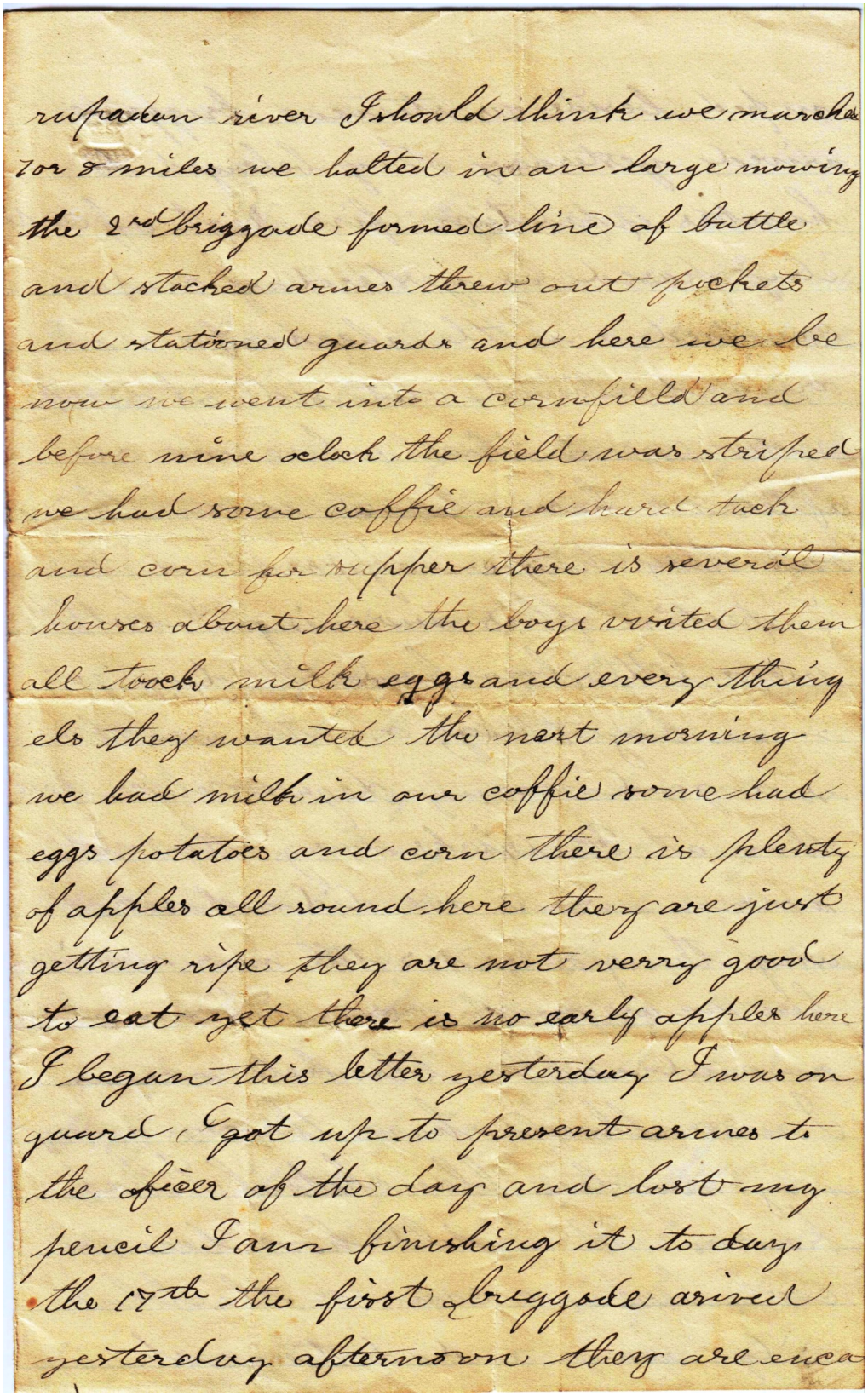
Dear Parents we are near the Rapd.
River Renews Diversion left Fredrick-
sburge the 11th about dark we marched
very slow all night about daybreak
we turned into a field on some high
ground we started with our knapsacks rubber and woolen blankets an extra pair of shoes we packed our overcoats and all besides what we wanted to carry we took a clean shirt and writeing and sewing materials before we marched two miles more than half the regt threw away their woolen blankets & threw away mine each biggade had a long train of buggage wagons and one battery we slept till 8 and eat a little hard tack and started on we did not go far that day we stoped at noon and had

August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 1, Fredericksburg, VA



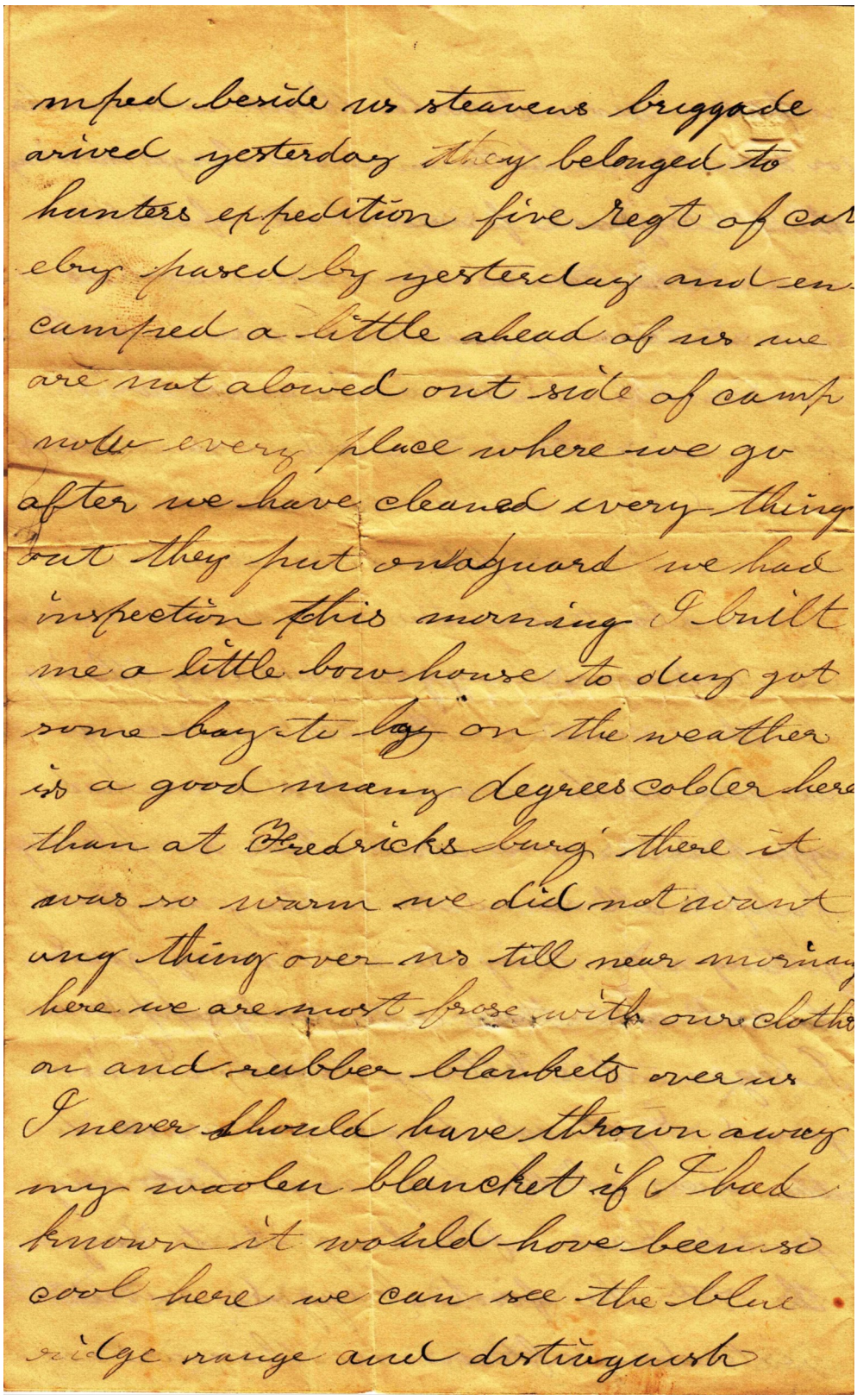
some hot coffee and hard tack at 3 aclock we resumed our march and marched steady till dark we turned in again had some hard tack for supper in the morning we had some coffee and hard tack we started again at 7 and reached Bentons station about 10 oclock we took the cars about 2 and rode to Culpepper the distance of 14 miles we marched about 9 miles to the south a turned into a field we took no tents with us except the officers and provision tents we staid over night and left at 8 oclock the next day we had some fresh beef here we went about the country as much as we pleased we shot some pigs got some green corn and roasted and boiled it rained that night but my rubber blanket did not wet through I was so tired that I sleept sound we started at 3 the next day and marched toward the

July 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 2, Fredericksburg, VA



rappadan river I should think we marched
for 8 miles we halted in an large mowing
the 2nd briggade formed line of battle
and stacked arms threw out pickets
and stationed guards and here we be
now we went into a cornfield and
before nine oclock the field was stripped
we had some coffie and hard tack
and corn for supper there is several
houses about here the boys visited them
all took milk eggs and every thing
els they wanted the next morning
we had milk in our coffie some had
eggs potatoes and corn there is plenty
of appples all round here they are just
getting ripe they are not verry good
to eat yet there is no early appples here
I began this letter yesterday I was on
guard I got up to present arms to
the officer of the day and lost my
pencil I am finishing it to day
the 17th the first briggade arived
yesterday afternoon they are enca

August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 3, Fredericksburg, VA

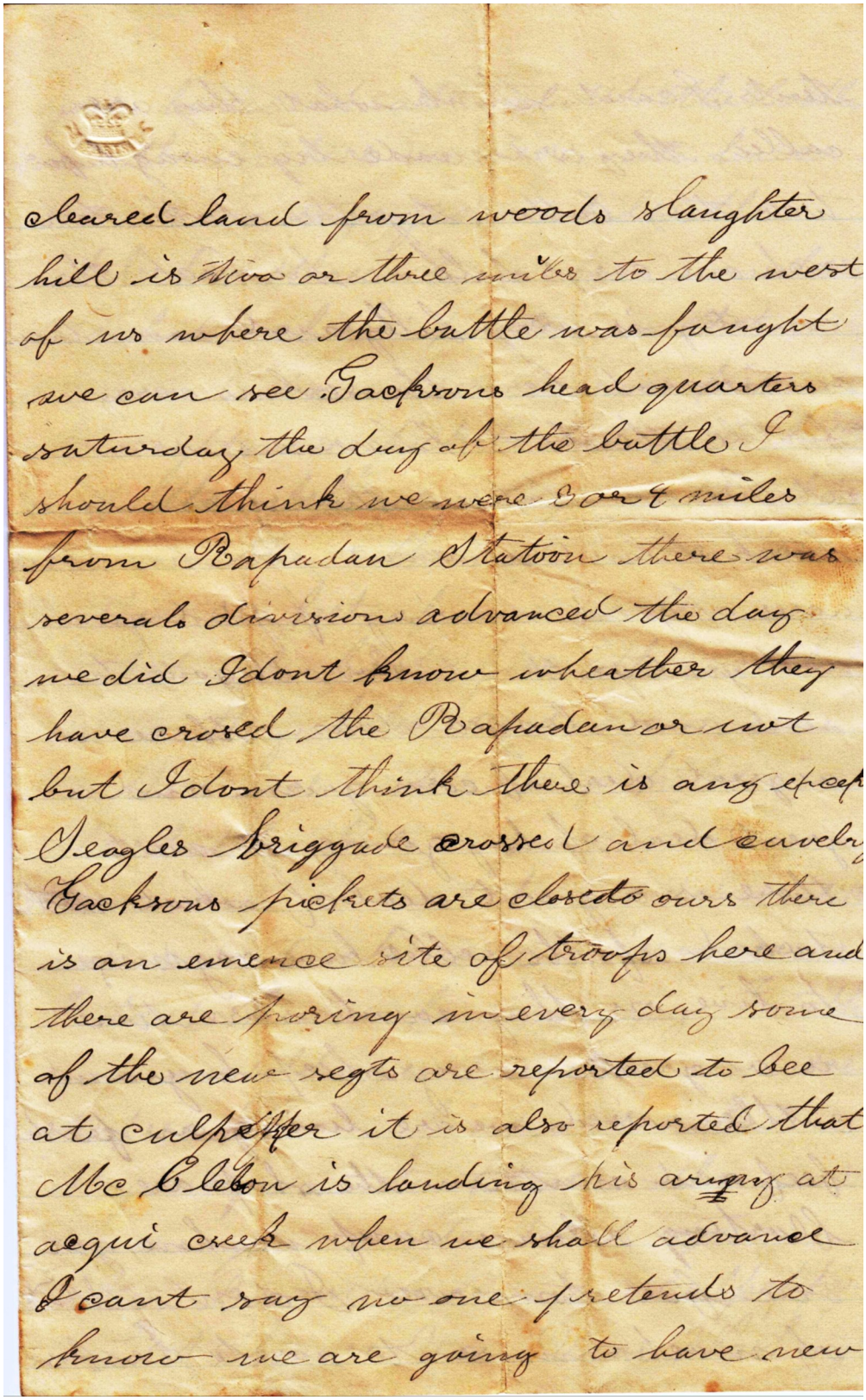


mped beside us steavens briggade
arived yesterday they belonged to
hunters expedition five regt of cav
alry passed by yesterday and en
camped a little ahead of us we
are not alowed out side of camp
note every place where we go
after we have cleaned every thing
out they put on safguard we had
inspection this morning I built
me a little bow house to day got
some hay to lay on the weather
is a good many degrees colder here
than at Fredricksburg there it
was so warm we did not want
any thing over us till near morn
here we are most frose with our cloth
es and rubber blankets over us
I never should have thrown away
my woolen blanckets if I had
known it would have been so
cool here we can see the blue
ridge range and distinguish

August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 4, Fredericksburg, VA

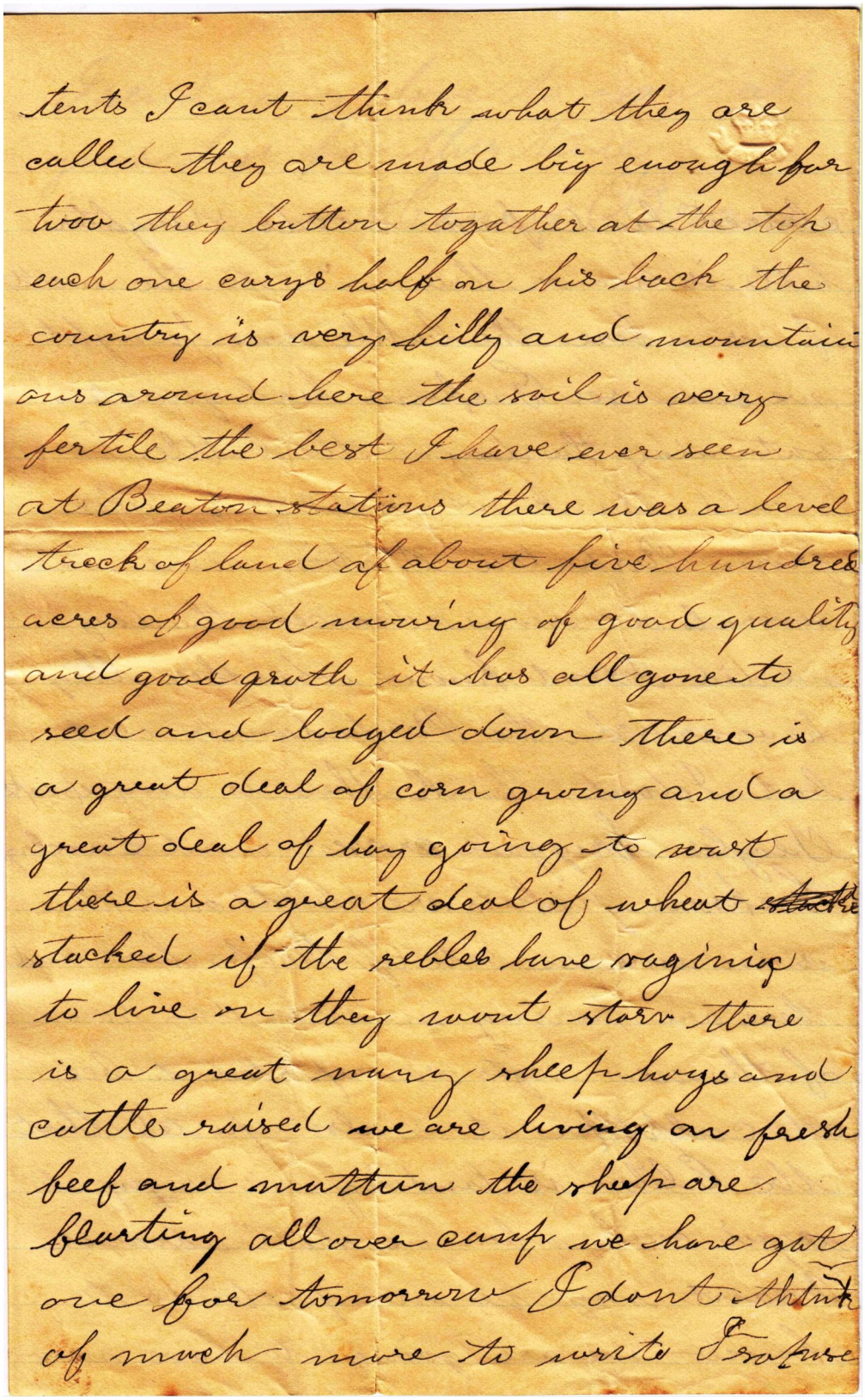


August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Envelope, Fredericksburg, VA



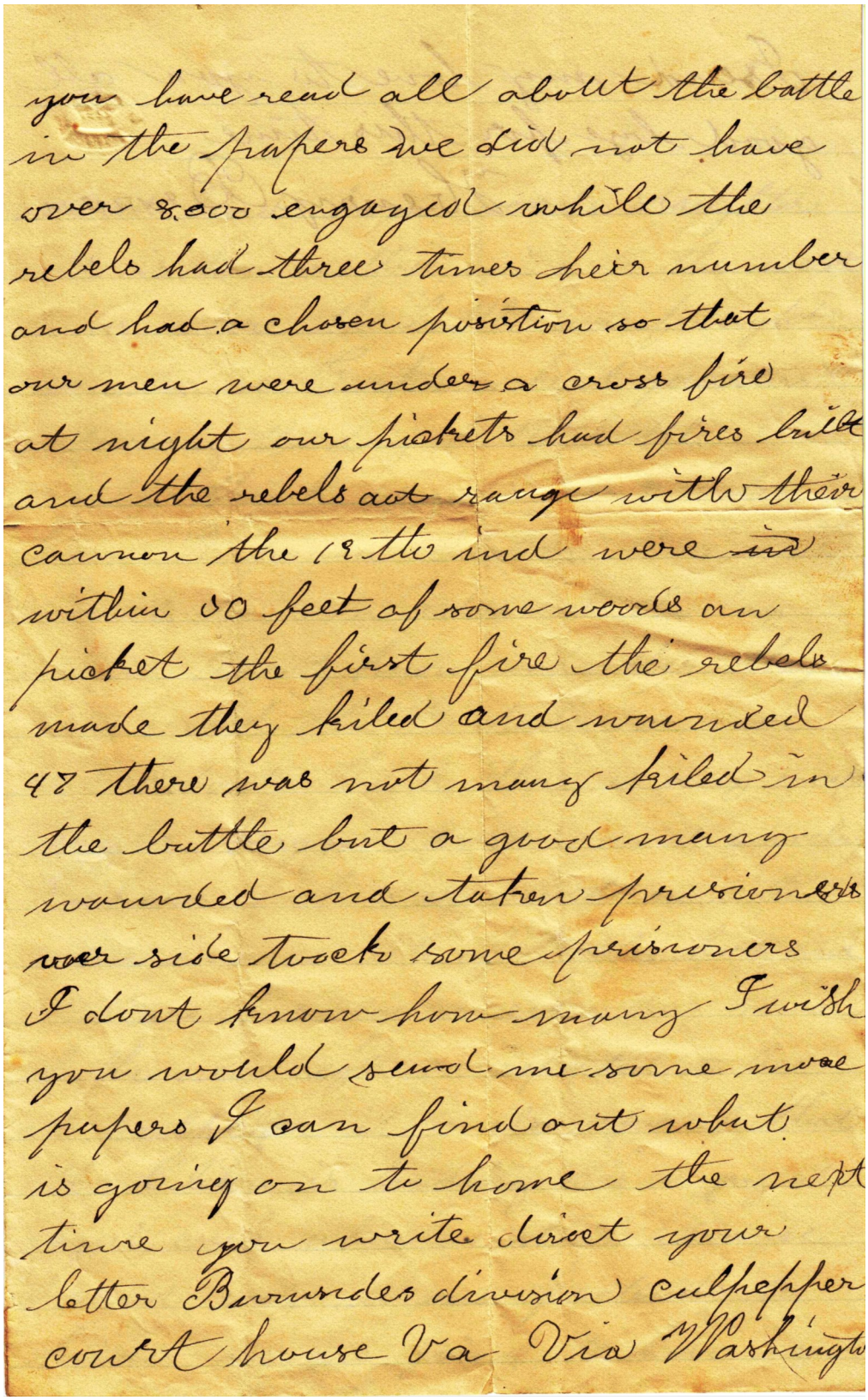
cleared land from woods slaughter hill is two or three miles to the west of us where the battle was fought we can see Jacksons head quarters saturday the day of the battle I should think we were 3 or 4 miles from Rapadan Station there was several divisions advanced the day we did I dont know wheather they have crosed the Rapadan or not but I dont think there is any except Seagles brigade crossed and cavelry Jacksons pickets are closed to ours there is an emence site of troops here and there are poring in every day some of the new regts are reported to bee at culpepper it is also reported that Mc Clelon is landing his army at acqui creek when we shall advance I cant say no one pretends to know we are going to have new

August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 5, Fredericksburg, VA



tents I cant think what they are
called they are made big enough for
two they button together at the top
each one carys half on his back the
country is very hilly and mountain
ous around here the soil is very
fertile the best I have ever seen
at Beaton ~~stations~~ there was a level
track of land of about five hundred
acres of good morring of good quality
and good growth it has all gone to
seed and lodged down there is
a great deal of corn growng and a
great deal of hay going to waste
there is a great deal of wheat ~~stacked~~
stacked if the rebles have saginig
to live on they wont starve there
is a great many sheep hogs and
cattle raised we are living on fresh
beef and mutton the sheep are
bleating all over camp we have got
one for tomorrow I dont think
of much more to write I so close

August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 6, Fredericksburg, VA

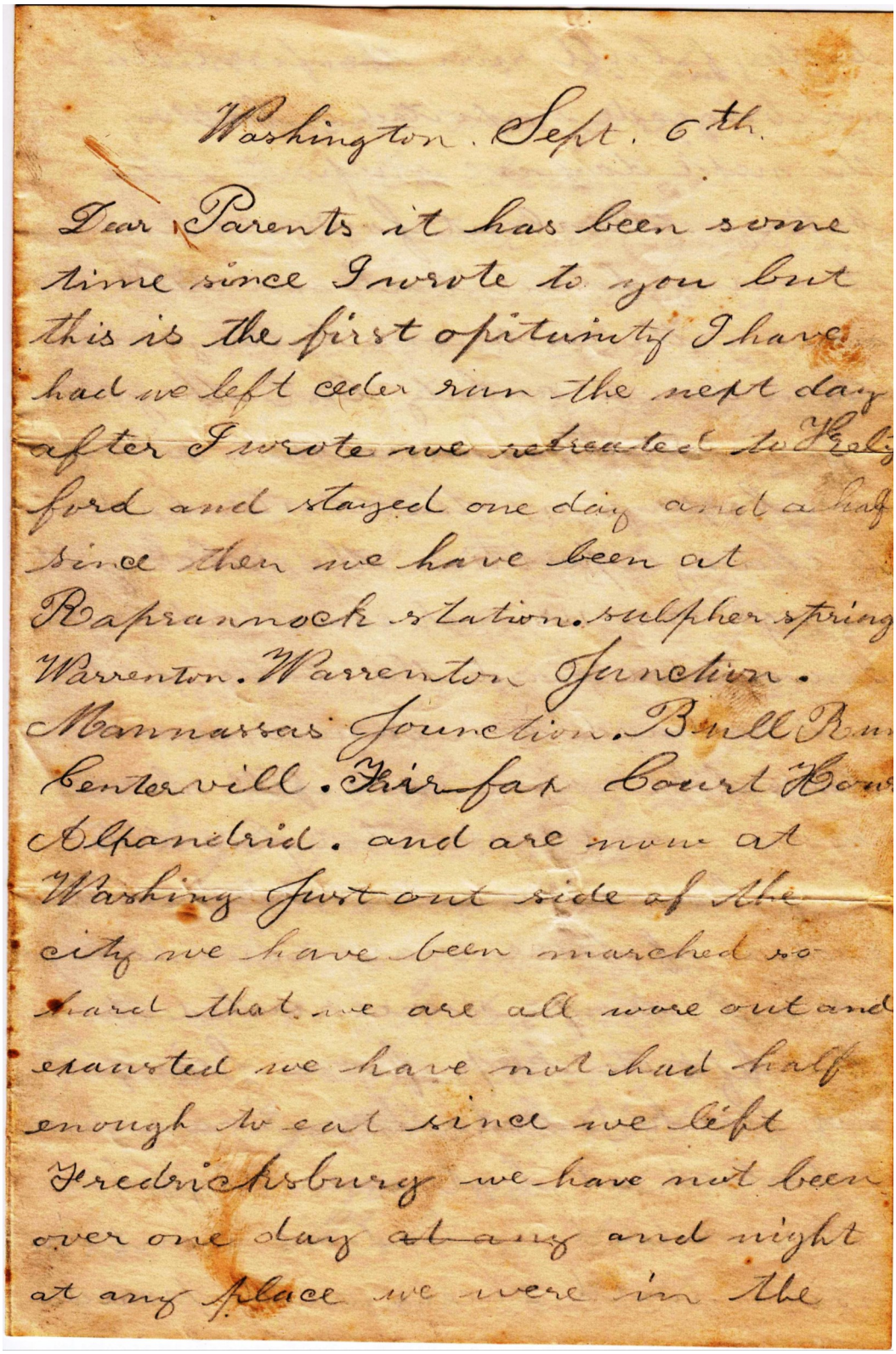


you have read all about the battle in the papers we did not have over 8,000 engaged while the rebels had three times their number and had a chosen position so that our men were under a cross fire at night our pickets had fires built and the rebels act range with their cannon the 9th ind were in within 30 feet of some woods on picket the first fire the rebels made they killed and wounded 47 there was not many killed in the battle but a good many wounded and taken prisoners our side took some prisoners I dont know how many I wish you would send me some more papers I can find out what is going on to home the next time you write direct your letter Brownes division culpepper court house Va Via Washingt

August 16, 1862 (1862.08.16) Page 7, Fredericksburg, VA



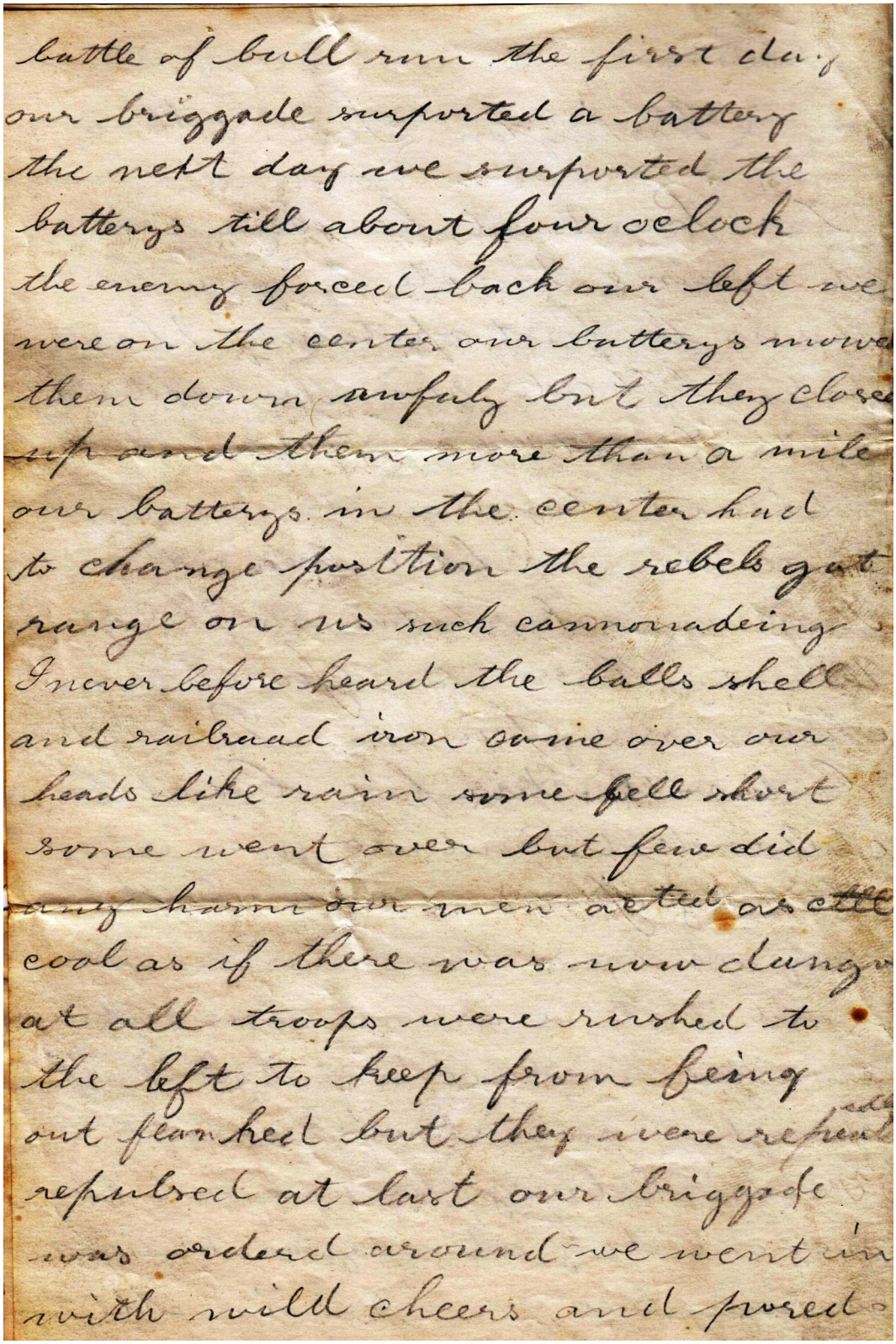
1862.08.16 Page 8, Fredericksburg, VA



Washington. Sept. 6th.

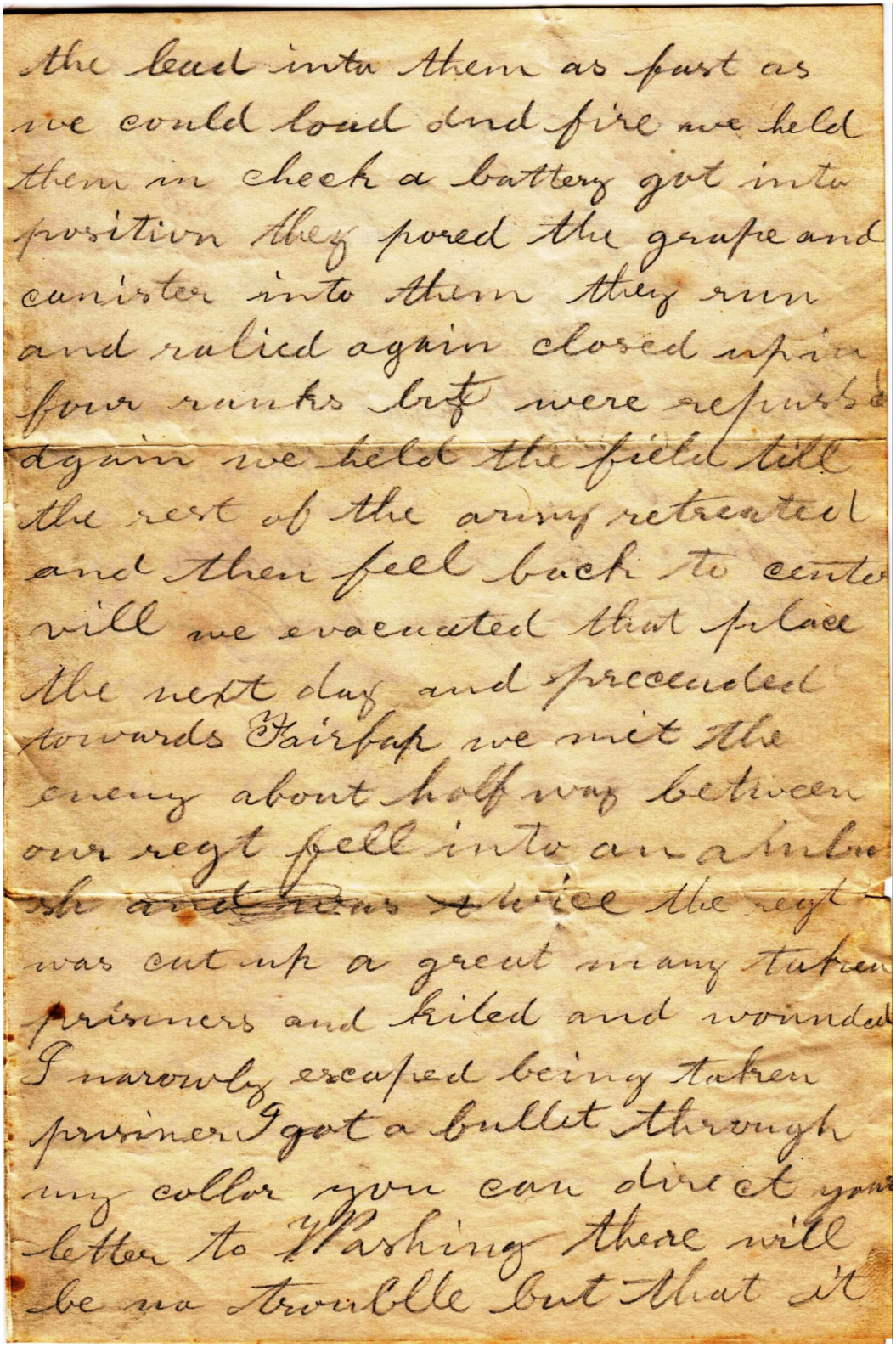
Dear Parents it has been some time since I wrote to you but this is the first opituinity I have had we left ceder run the next day after I wrote we retreated to Fredericksburg and stayed one day and a half since then we have been at Rapprannock station. sulpher spring Warrenton. Warrenton Junction. Manassas Jounction. Bull Run Centerville. Fair fax Court House Alpanedria. and are now at Washington just out side of the city we have been marched so hard that we are all wore out and exausted we have not had half enough to eat since we left Fredericksburg we have not been over one day at any and night at any place we were in the

September 6, 1862 (1862.09.06) Page 1, Washington

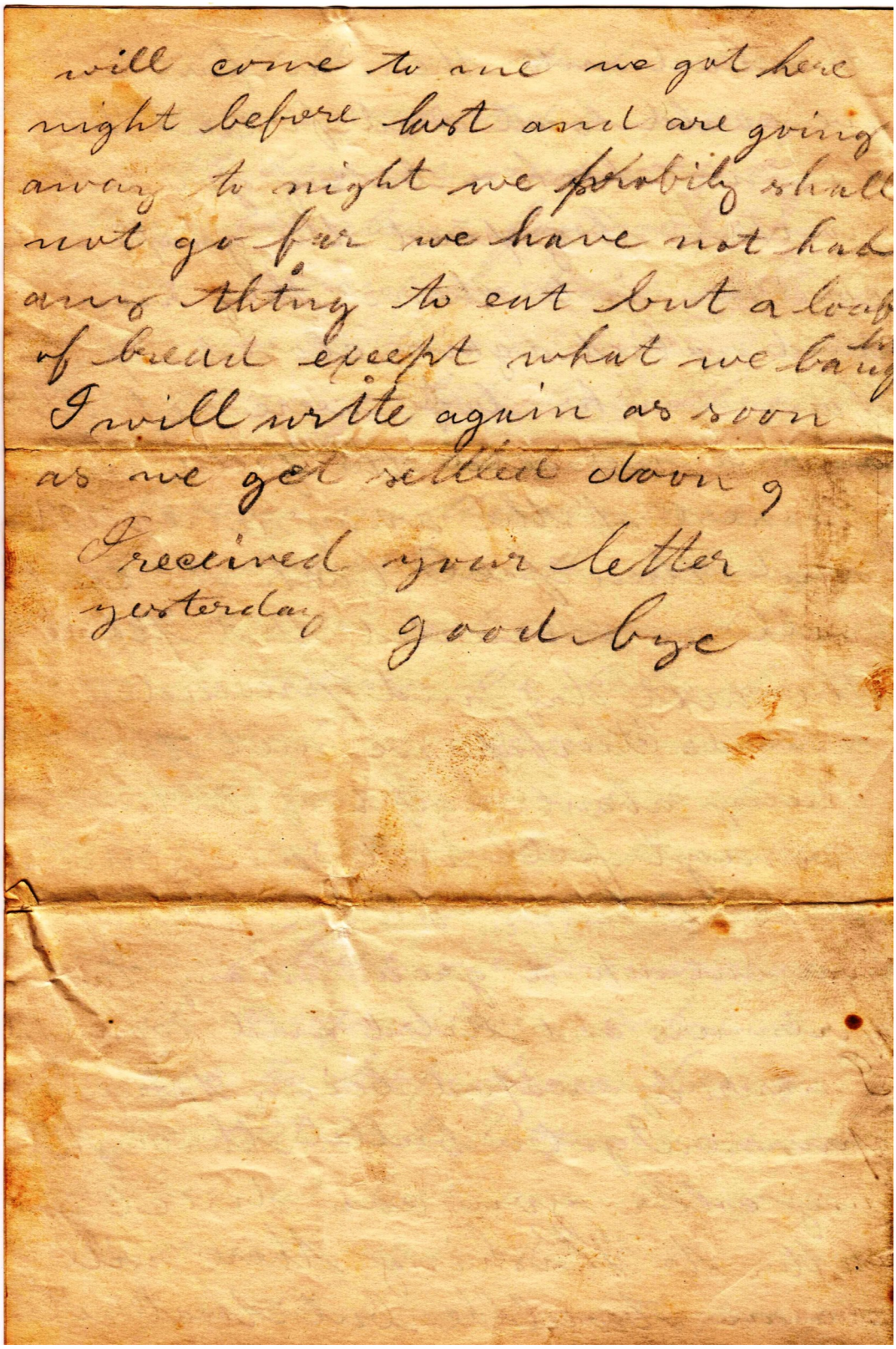


battle of bull run the first day
our briggade supported a battery
the next day we supported the
batterys till about four oclock
the enemy forced back our left we
were on the center our batterys moved
them down awfuly but they closed
up and then more than a mile
our batterys in the center had
to change position the rebels got
range on us such camonadeing
I never before heard the balls shell
and railroad iron came over our
heads like rain some fell short
some went over but few did
any harm our men acted as cool
cool as if there was now danger
at all troops were rushed to
the left to keep from being
out flanked but they were repulsed
repulsed at last our briggade
was ordered around we went in
with wild cheers and pored

September 6, 1862 (1862.09.06) Page2, Washington



the lead into them as fast as we could load and fire we held them in check a battery got into position they pored the grape and canister into them they run and rallied again closed upon four ranks but were repulsed again we held the field till the rest of the army retreated and then fell back to centerville we evacuated that place the next day and proceeded towards Fairfax we met the enemy about half way between our regt fell into an ambush and twice the regt was cut up a great many taken prisoners and killed and wounded I narrowly escaped being taken prisoner I got a bullet through my collor you can direct your letter to Washington there will be no trouble but that it

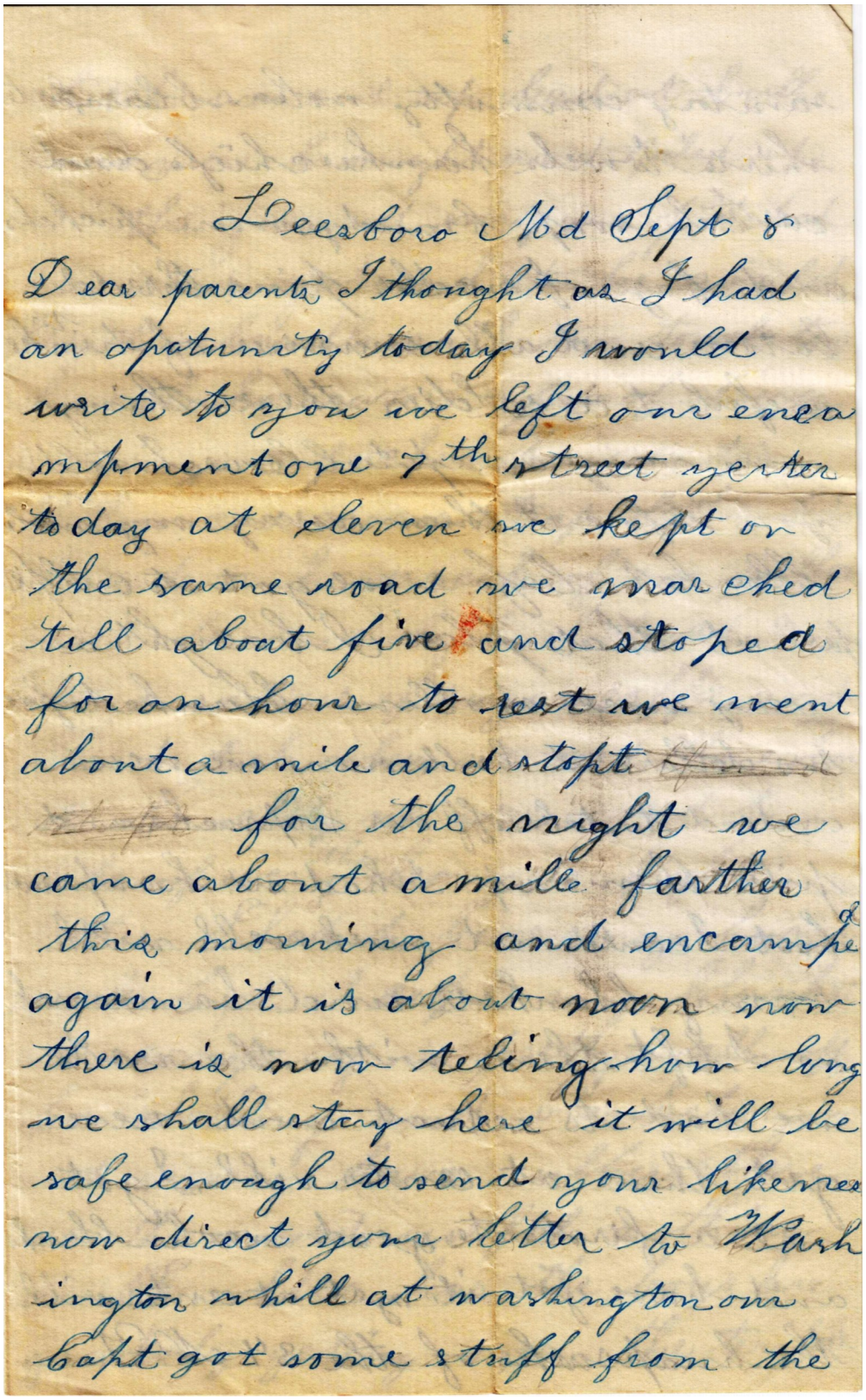


will come to me we got here
night before last and are going
away to night we probably shall
not go far we have not had
any thing to eat but a loaf
of bread except what we bay
I will write again as soon
as we get settled down
I received your letter
yesterday good bye

September 6, 1862 (1862.09.06) Page 4, Leesboro, VA

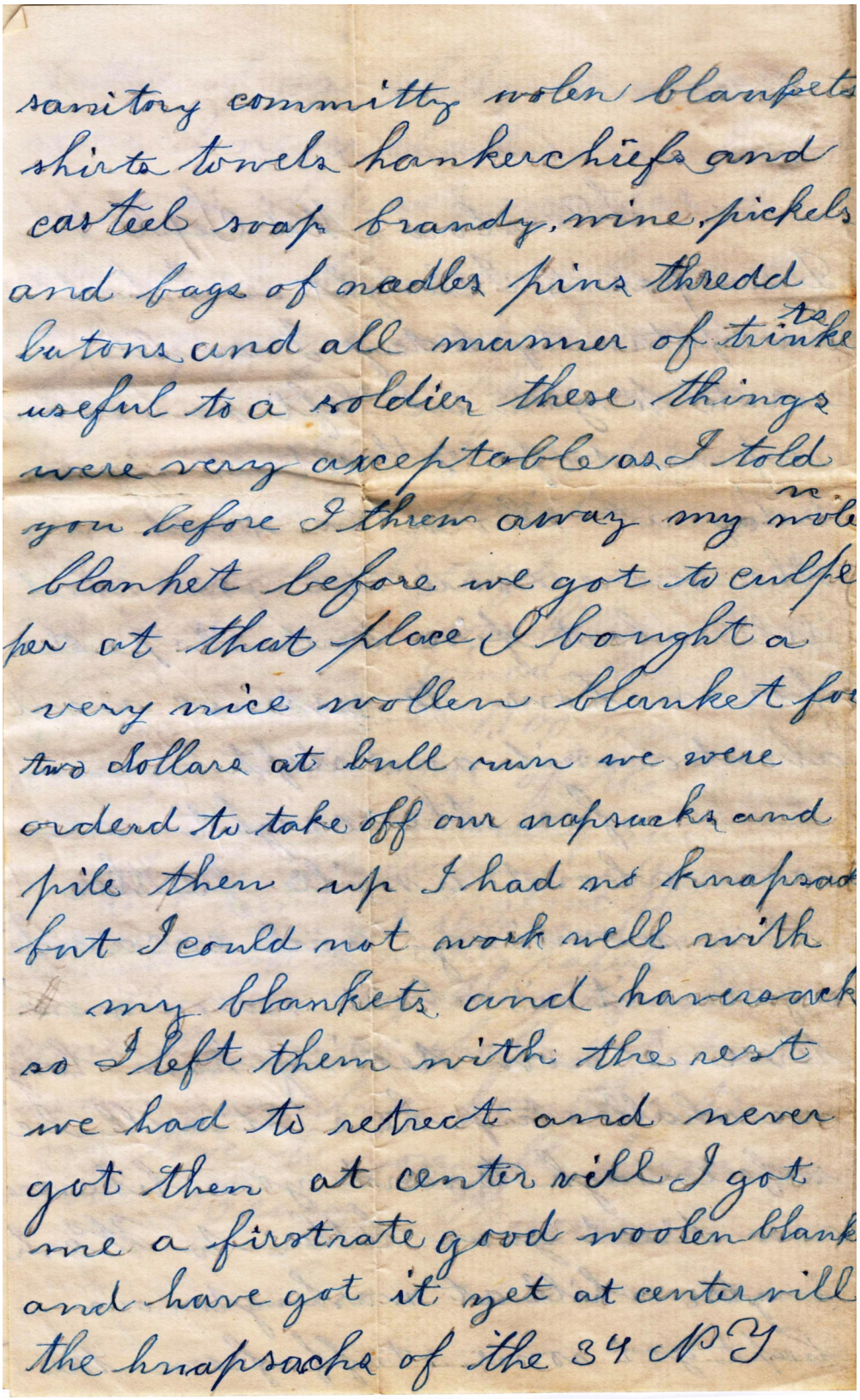


September 6, 1862 (1862.09.06) Envelope, Leesboro, VA



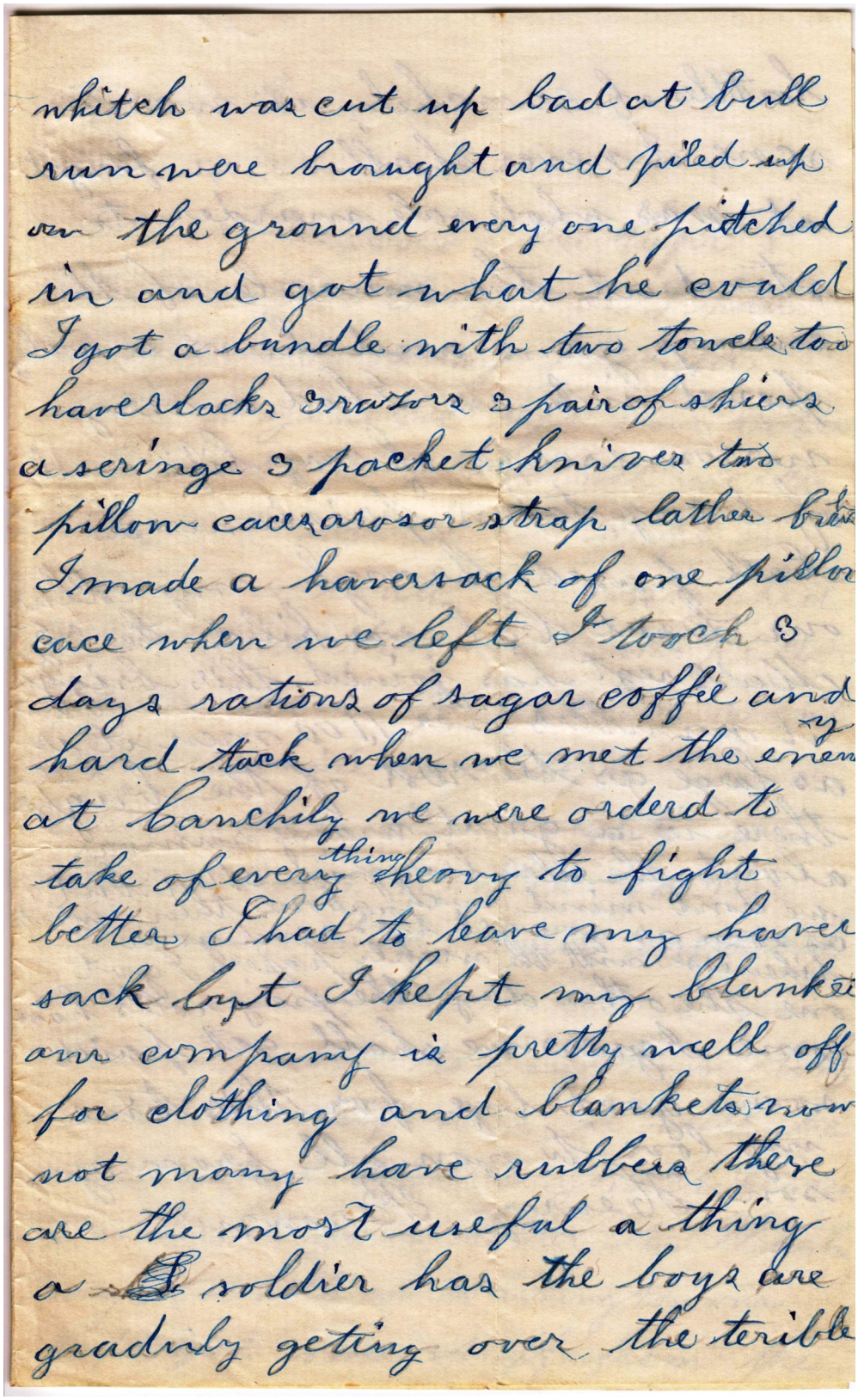
Leesboro Md Sept 8
Dear parents I thought as I had
an opatunity to day I would
write to you we left our encamp
mpment one 7th street yester
to day at eleven we kept on
the same road we marched
till about five and stoped
for an hour to rest we went
about a mile and stopt
for the night we
came about a mille farther
this morning and encampe
again it is about noon now
there is now teling how long
we shall stay here it will be
safe enough to send your likenes
now direct your letter to Wash
ington whill at washington our
Capt got some stuff from the

September 8, 1862 (1862.09.08) Page 1, Leesboro, VA



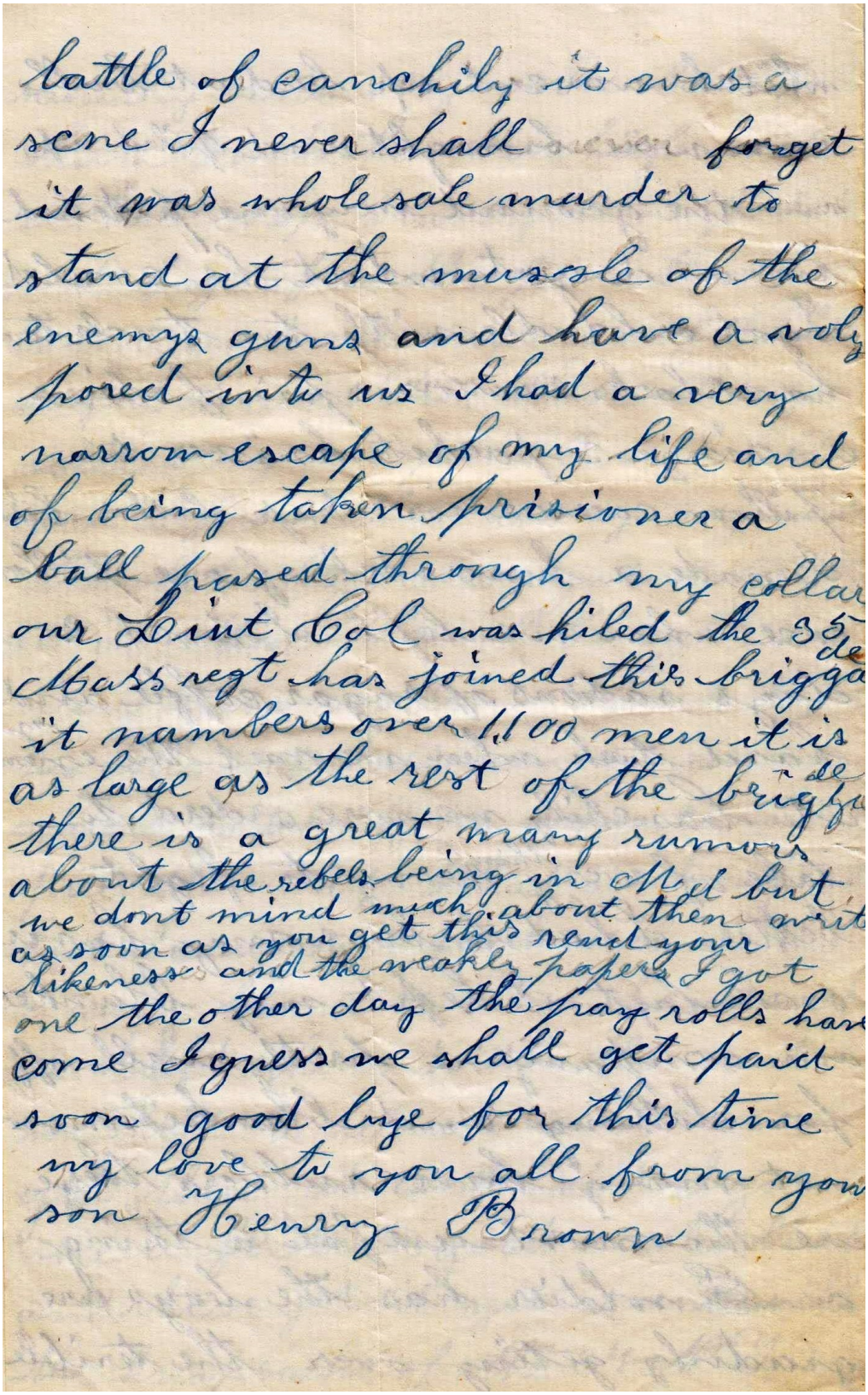
sanitory committy woolen blanpets
shirts towels hankerchiefs and
castel soap brandy, wine, pickels
and bags of needles pins thredd
butons and all manner of trinke
useful to a soldier these things
were very acceptable as I told
you before I threw away my woo
blanket before we got to culpe
per at that place I bought a
very nice woollen blanket fo
two dollars at bull run we were
orderd to take off our napsacks and
pile them up I had no knapsac
but I could not work well with
my blankets and haversack
so I left them with the rest
we had to retreat and never
got them at center vill I got
me a firstrate good woolen blank
and have got it yet at center vill
the knapsacks of the 34 N Y

September 8, 1862 (1862.09.08) Page 2, Leesboro, VA



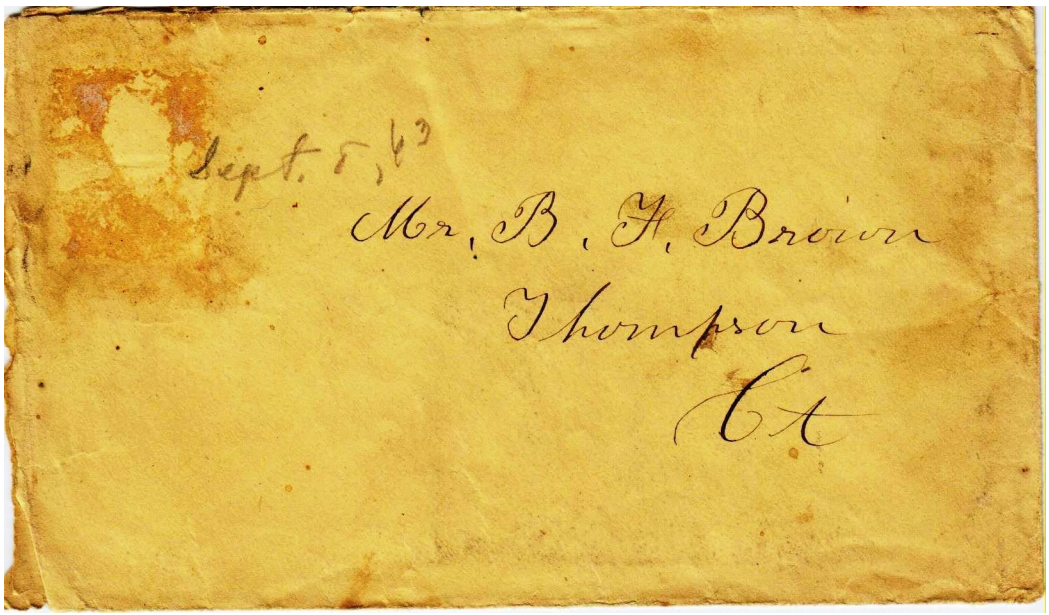
which was cut up bad at bull
run were brought and piled up
on the ground every one pitched
in and got what he could
I got a bundle with two towels two
haversacks 2 razors 2 pair of shears
a seringe 2 packet knives two
pillow cases 2 razor strap lather brush
I made a haversack of one pillow
case when we left I took 3
days rations of sugar coffee and
hard tack when we met the enemy
at Manchily we were ordered to
take of every thing heavy to fight
better I had to leave my haver
sack but I kept my blanket
our company is pretty well off
for clothing and blankets now
not many have rubbers there
are the most useful a thing
a soldier has the boys are
gradualy geting over the terrible

September 8, 1862 (1862.09.08) Page 3, Leesboro, VA

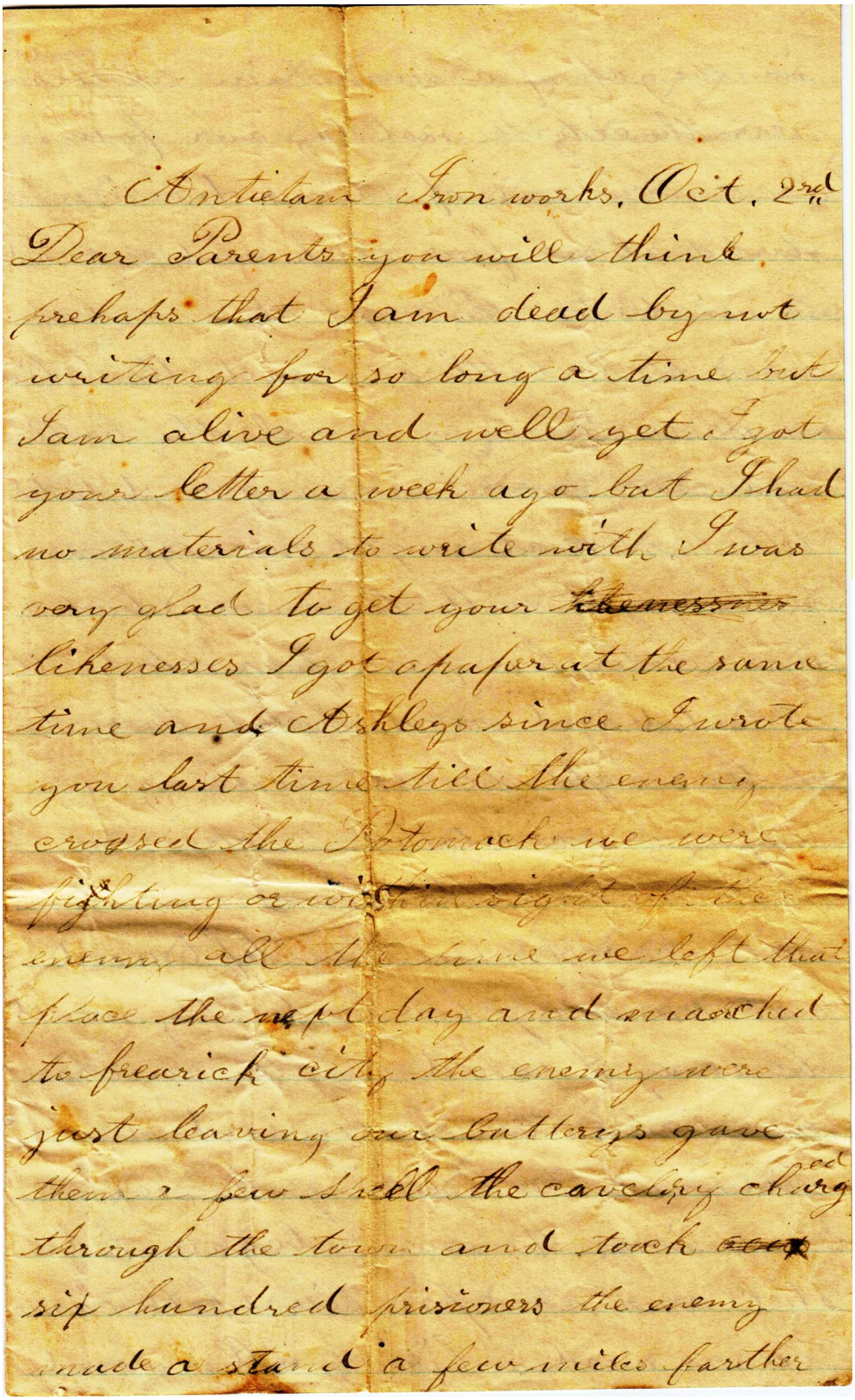


battle of Sanchily it was a
scene I never shall forget
it was wholesale murder to
stand at the muzzle of the
enemys guns and have a volly
pored into us I had a very
narrow escape of my life and
of being taken prisioner a
ball pased through my collar
our Lieut Col was killed the 35th
Mass regt has joined this brigade
it numbers over 1100 men it is
as large as the rest of the brigade
there is a great many rumors
about the rebels being in Md but
we dont mind much about them now
as soon as you get this send your
likeness and the weekly papers I got
one the other day the pay rolls have
come I guess we shall get paid
soon good bye for this time
my love to you all from your
son Henry B Brown

September 8, 1862 (1862.09.08) Page 4, Leesboro, VA

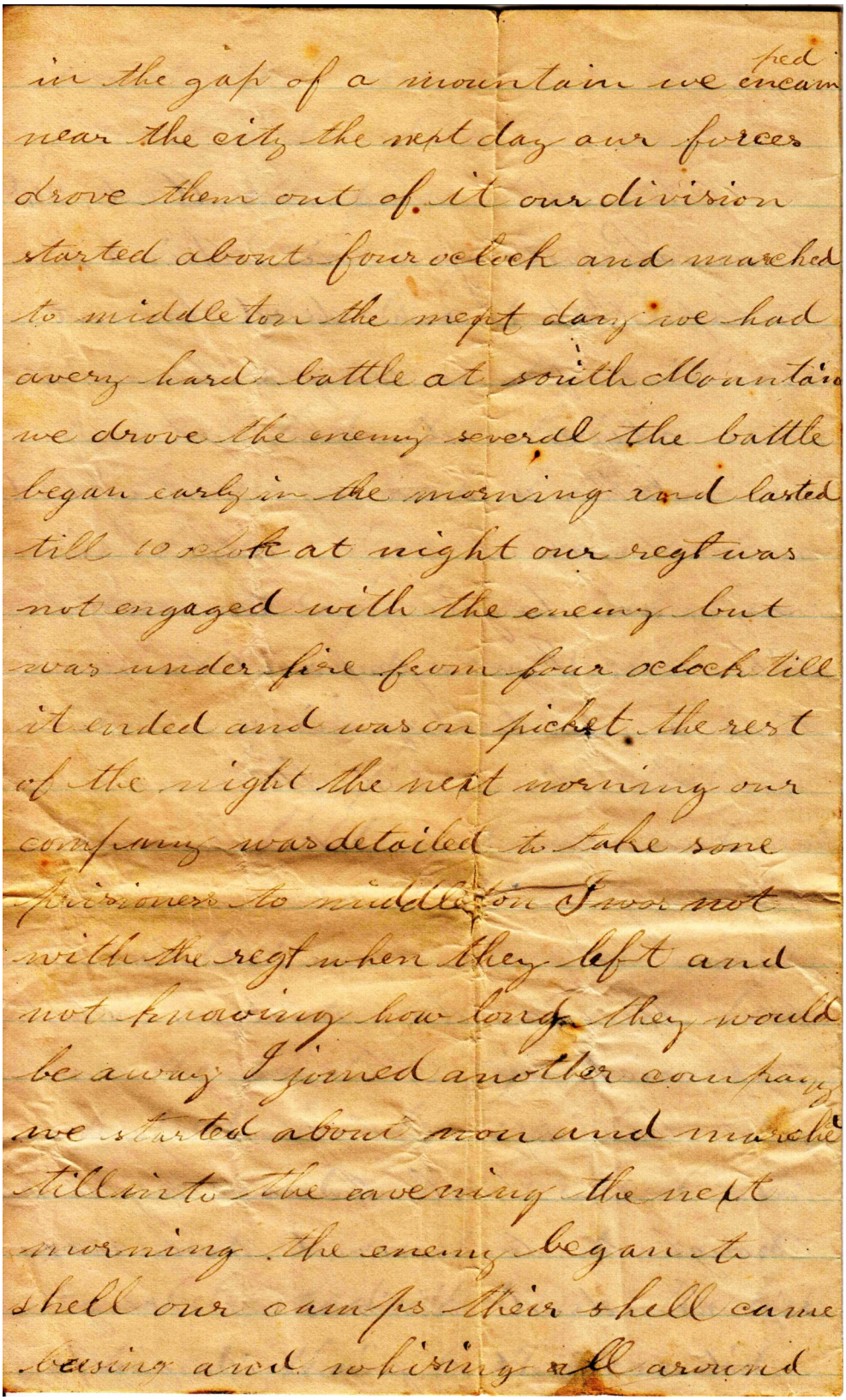


September 8, 1862 (1862.09.08) Envelope, Leesboro, VA



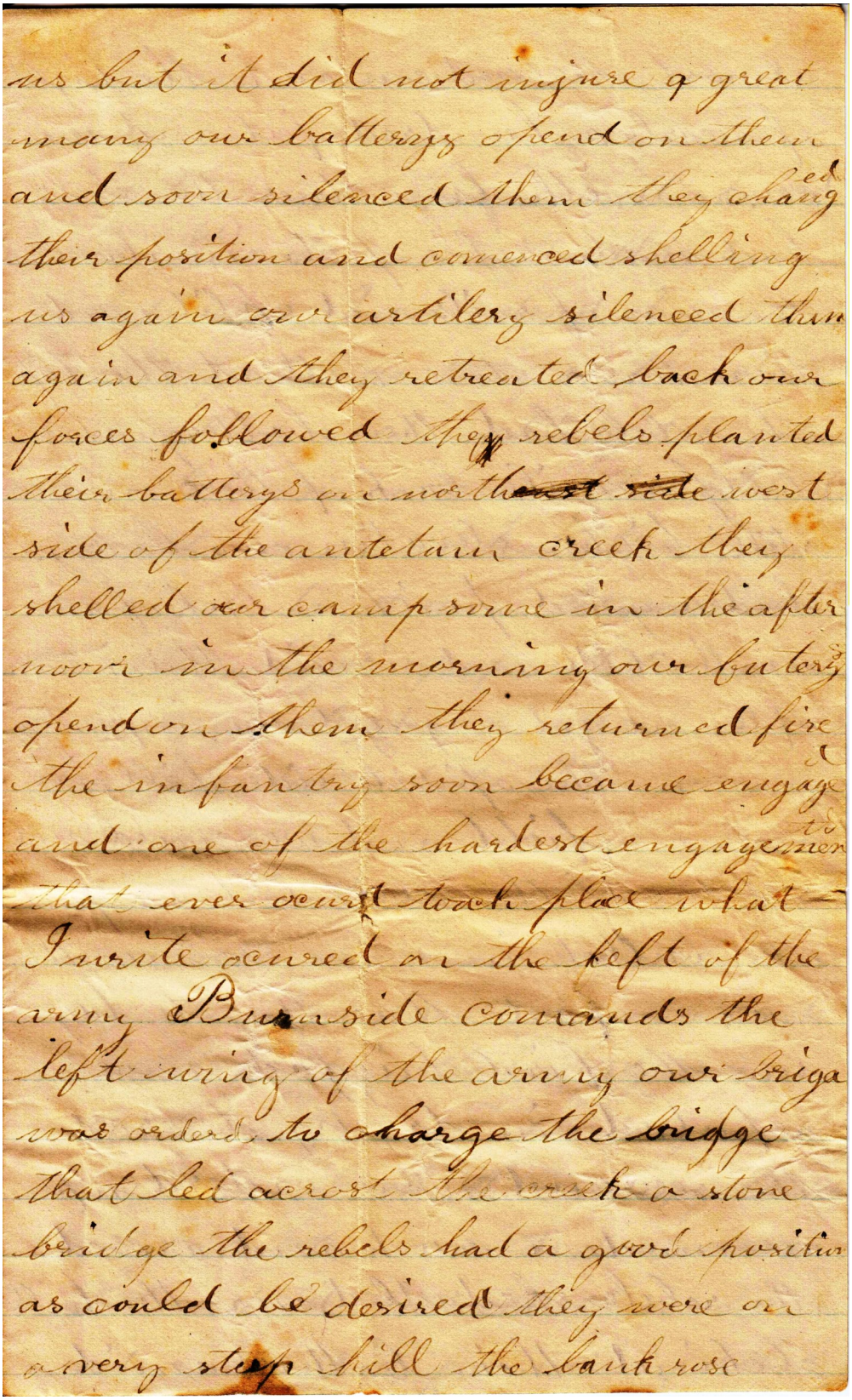
Antietam Iron works, Oct. 2nd
Dear Parents you will think
prehaps that I am dead by not
writing for so long a time but
I am alive and well yet I got
your letter a week ago but I had
no materials to write with I was
very glad to get your ~~likenesses~~
likenesses I got a paper at the same
time and Ashleys since I wrote
you last time till the enemy
crossed the Potomack we were
fighting or within sight of the
enemy all the time we left that
place the 4th day and marched
to Fredrick city the enemy were
just leaving our Battery gave
them a few shell the cavalry charg
through the town and took
six hundred prisioners the enemy
made a stand a few miles farther

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 1, Antietam. MD



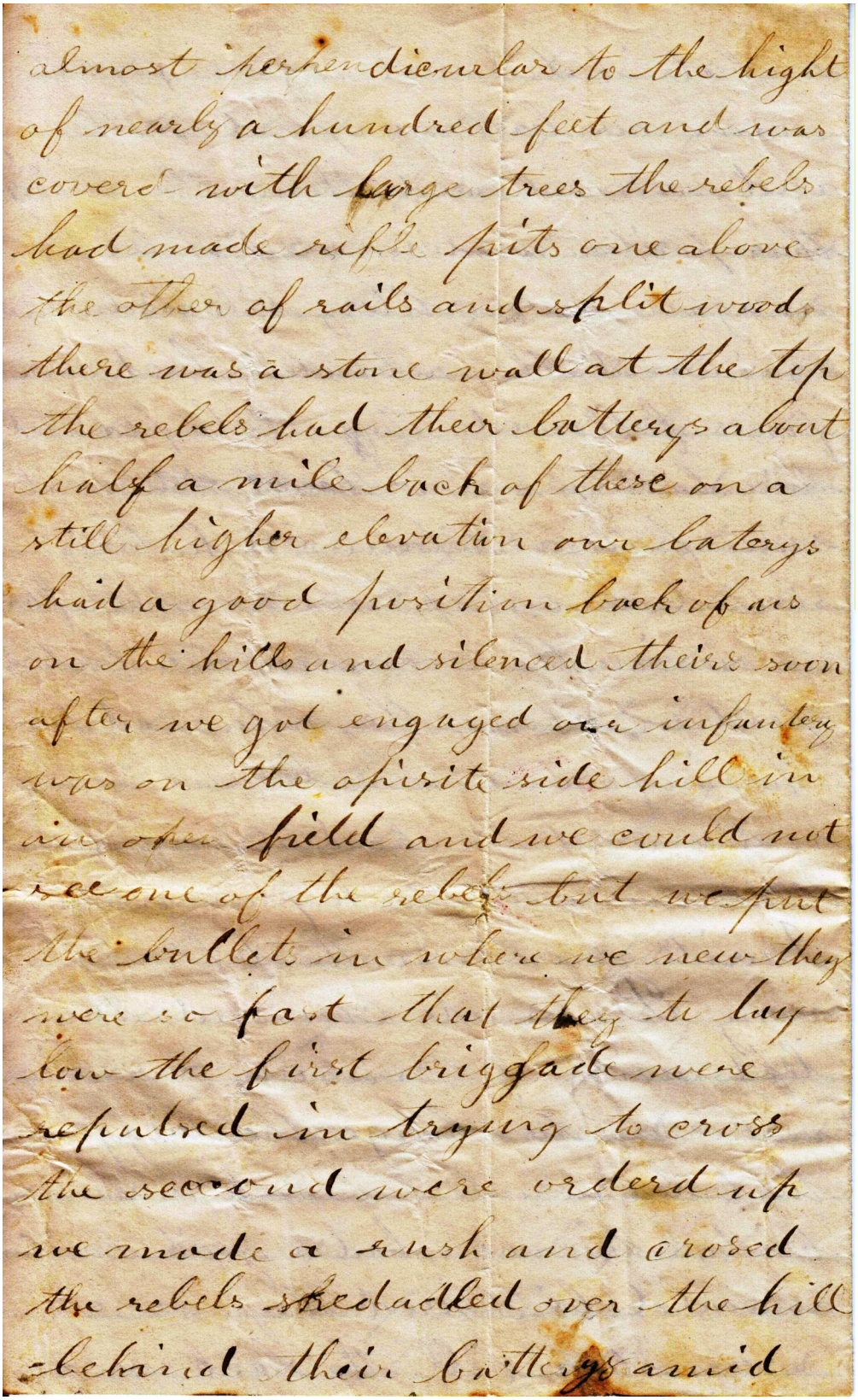
in the gap of a mountain we encamped
near the city the nept day our forces
drove them out of it our division
started about four oclock and marched
to middleton the nept day we had
avery hard battle at south Mountain
we drove the enemy severdl the battle
began early in the morning and lasted
till 10 oclok at night our regt was
not engaged with the enemy but
was under fire from four oclock till
it ended and was on picket the rest
of the night the nept morning our
company was detailed to take some
prisoners to middleton I was not
with the regt when they left and
not knowing how long they would
be away I joined another company
we started about noon and marched
till late the evening the nept
morning the enemy began to
shell our camps their shell came
teasing and whizing all around

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 2, Antietam, MD



as but it did not injure a great
many our batterys opend on them
and soon silenced them they chang
their position and comenced shelling
us again our artilery silenced them
again and they retreated back our
forces followed the rebels planted
their batterys on northeast side west
side of the antetam creek they
shelled our camp some in the after
noon in the morning our batterys
opend on them they returned fire
the infantry soon became engage
and one of the hardest engagemen
that ever occurd took plac what
I write owned on the left of the
army Burnside comands the
left wing of the army our briga
was orderd to charge the bridge
that led acrost the creek a stone
bridge the rebels had a good positio
as could be desired they were on
a very steep hill the bank rose

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 3, Antietam, MD

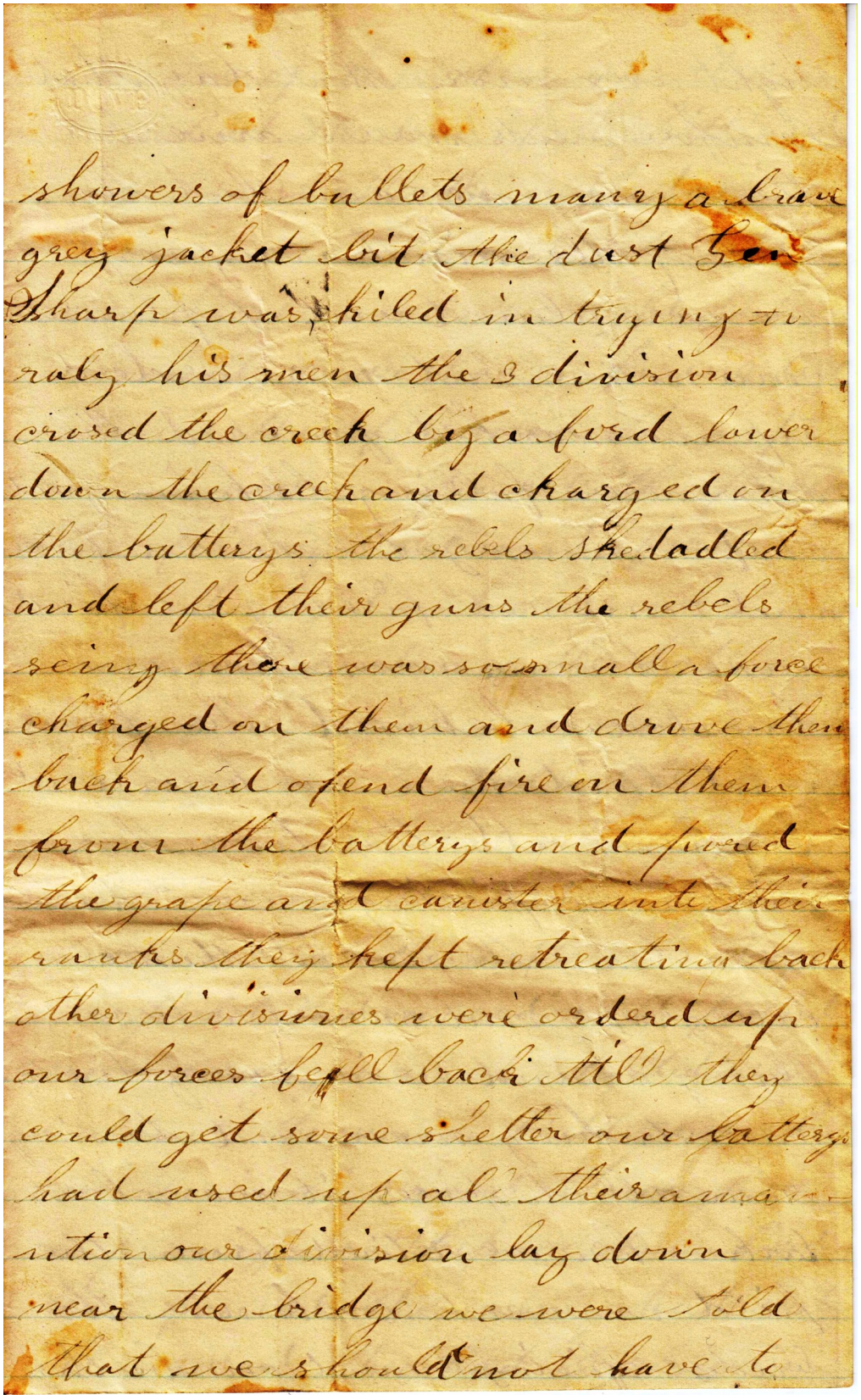


almost perpendicular to the hight
of nearly a hundred feet and was
covered with large trees the rebels
had made rifle pits one above
the other of rails and split wood,
there was a stone wall at the top
the rebels had their batterys about
half a mile back of these on a
still higher elevation our batterys
had a good position back of us
on the hills and silenced theirs soon
after we got engaged our infantery
was on the opisite side hill in
an open field and we could not
see one of the rebels but we sent
the bullets in where we new they
were so fast that they to lay
low the first briggade were
repulsed in trying to cross
the second were orderd up
we made a rush and crosed
the rebels skeedadled over the hill
behind their batterys amid

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 4, Antietam, MD

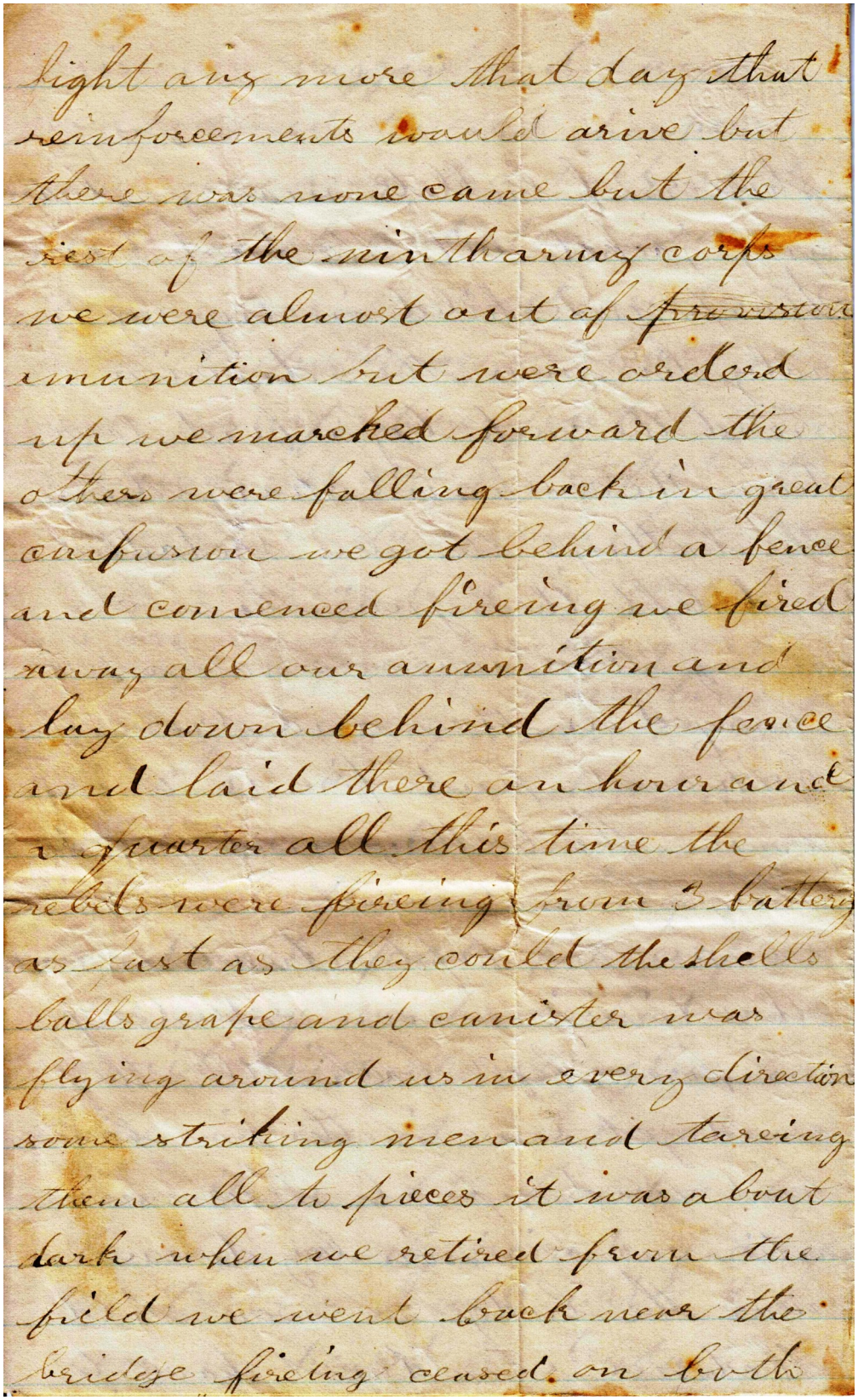


October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Envelope, Antietam, MD



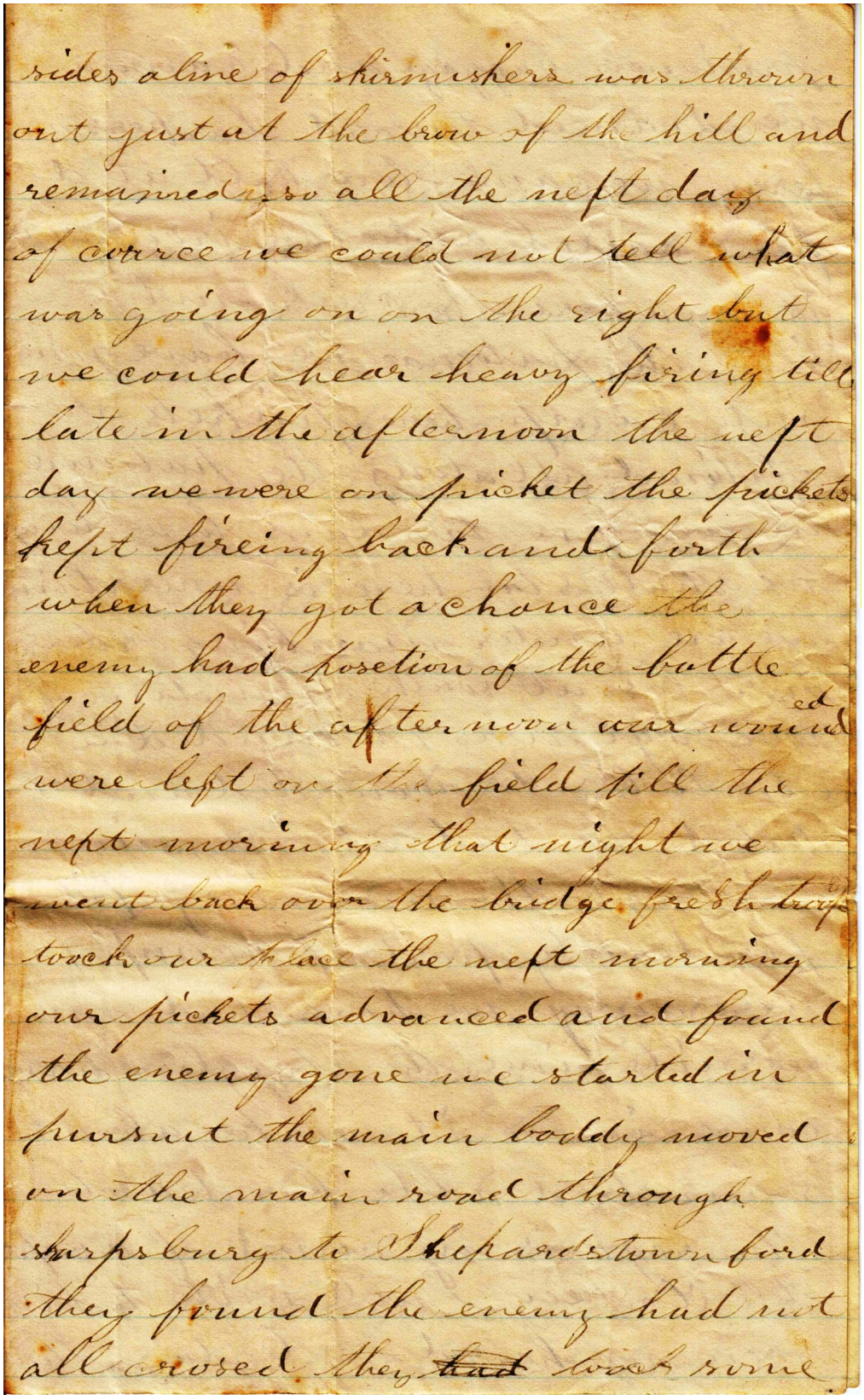
showers of bullets many a brave grey jacket bit the dust Gen Sharp was killed in trying to rally his men the 3 division crosed the creek by a ford lower down the creek and charged on the batterys the rebels skedadled and left their guns the rebels seing there was so small a force charged on them and drove them back and opend fire on them from the batterys and pored the grape and canister into their ranks they kept retreating back other divisions were ordered up our forces fell back till they could get some shelter our batterys had used up all their ammunition our division lay down near the bridge we were told that we should not have to

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 5, Antietam, MD



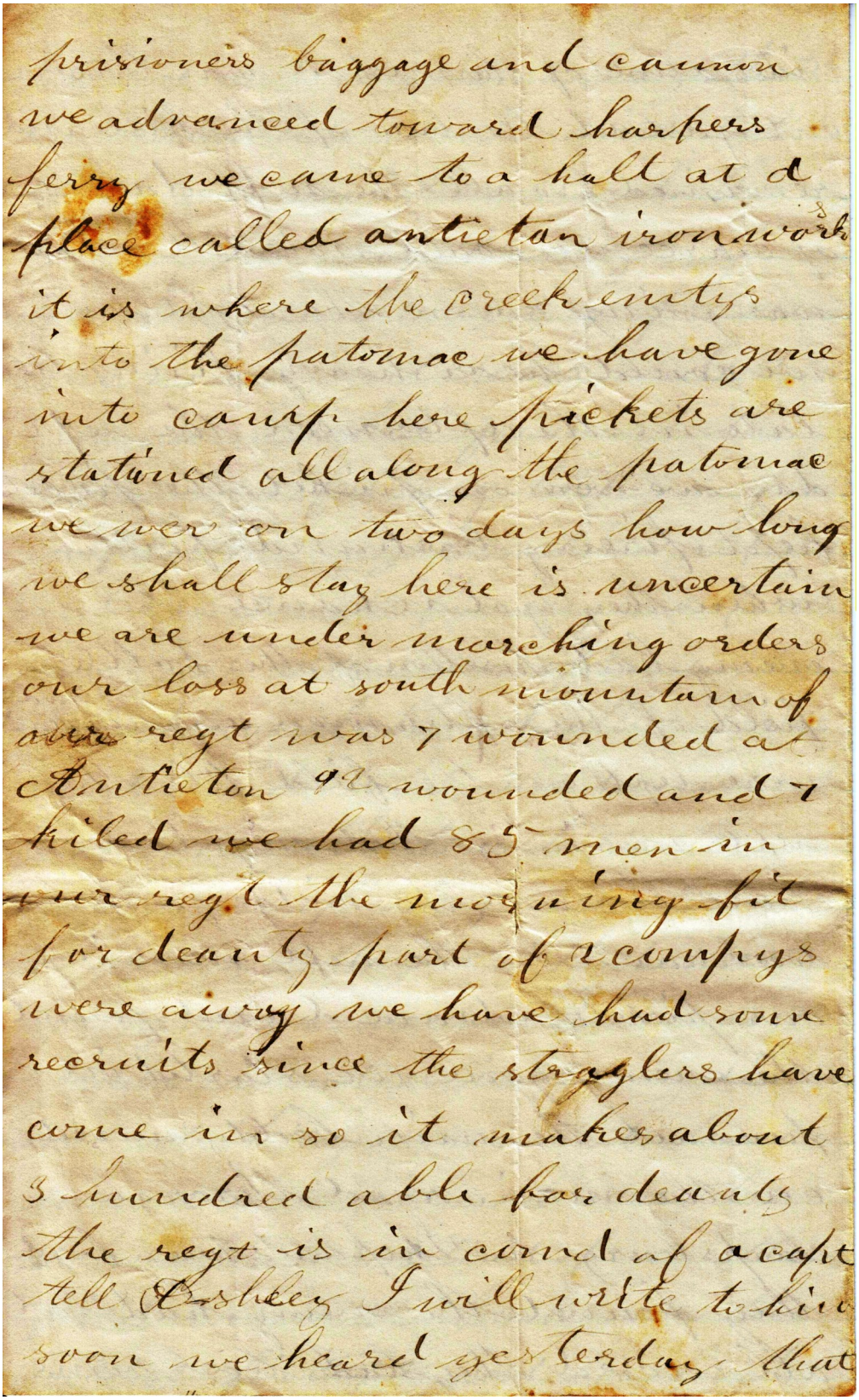
light any more that day that reinforcements would arive but there was none came but the rest of the ninth army corps we were almost out of ~~provision~~ ammunition but were orderd up we marched forward the others were falling back in great confusion we got behind a fence and commenced fireing we fired away all our ammition and lay down behind the fence and laid there an hour and a quarter all this time the rebels were fireing from a battery as fast as they could the shells balls grape and canister was flying around us in every direction some striking men and tearing them all to pieces it was about dark when we retired from the field we went back near the bridge fireing ceased on both

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 6, Antietam, MD



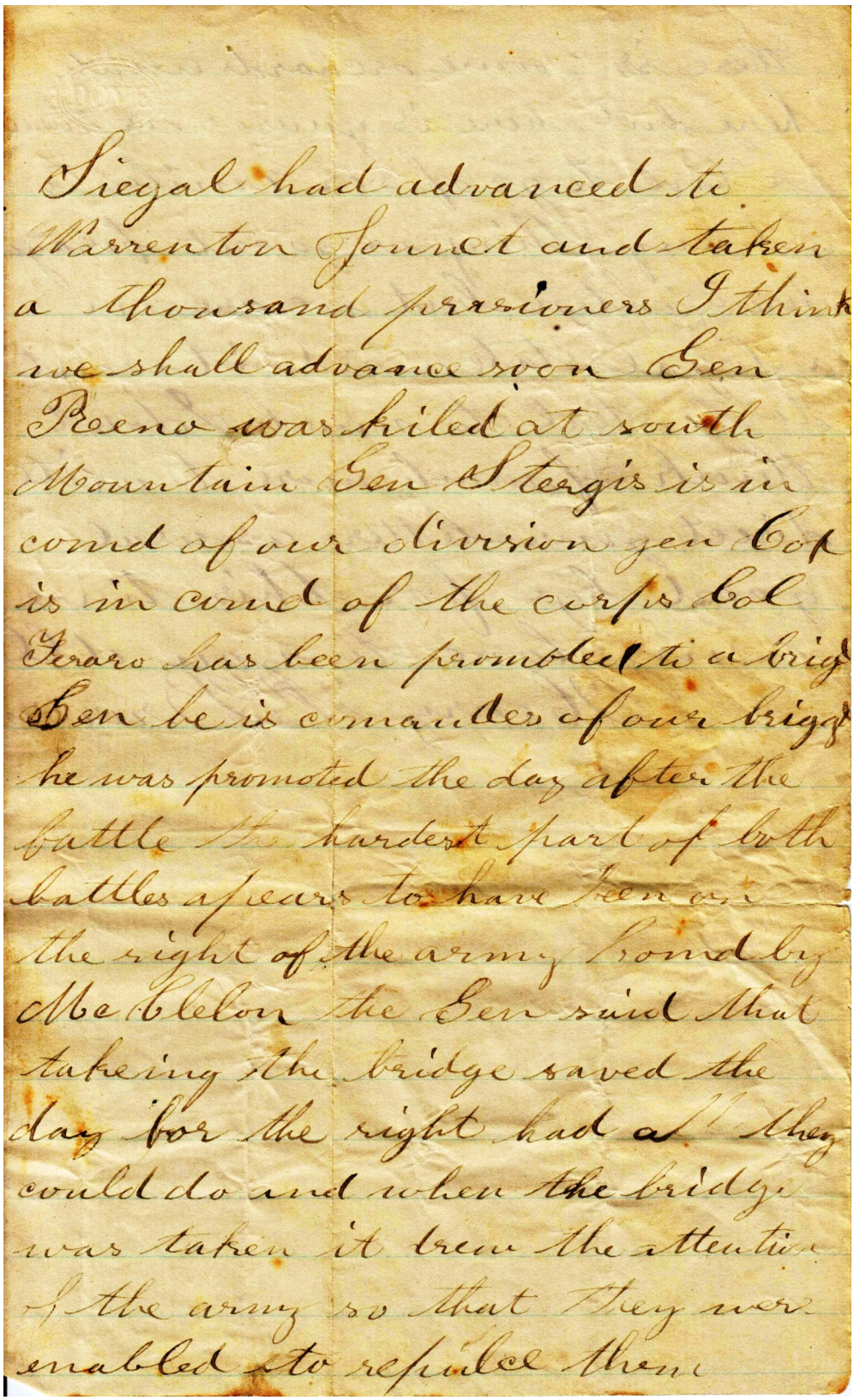
sides a line of skirmishers was thrown
out just at the brow of the hill and
remained so all the nept day
of course we could not tell what
was going on on the right but
we could hear heavy firing till
late in the afternoon the nept
day we were on picket the pickets
kept fireing back and forth
when they got a chance the
enemy had posetion of the battle
field of the afternoon our wounded
were left on the field till the
nept morning that night we
went back over the bridge fresh troops
took our place the nept morning
our pickets advanced and found
the enemy gone we started in
pursuit the main boddy moved
on the main road through
Sharpsburg to Shepardstown ford
they found the enemy had not
all crossed they ~~had~~ took some

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 7, Antietam, MD



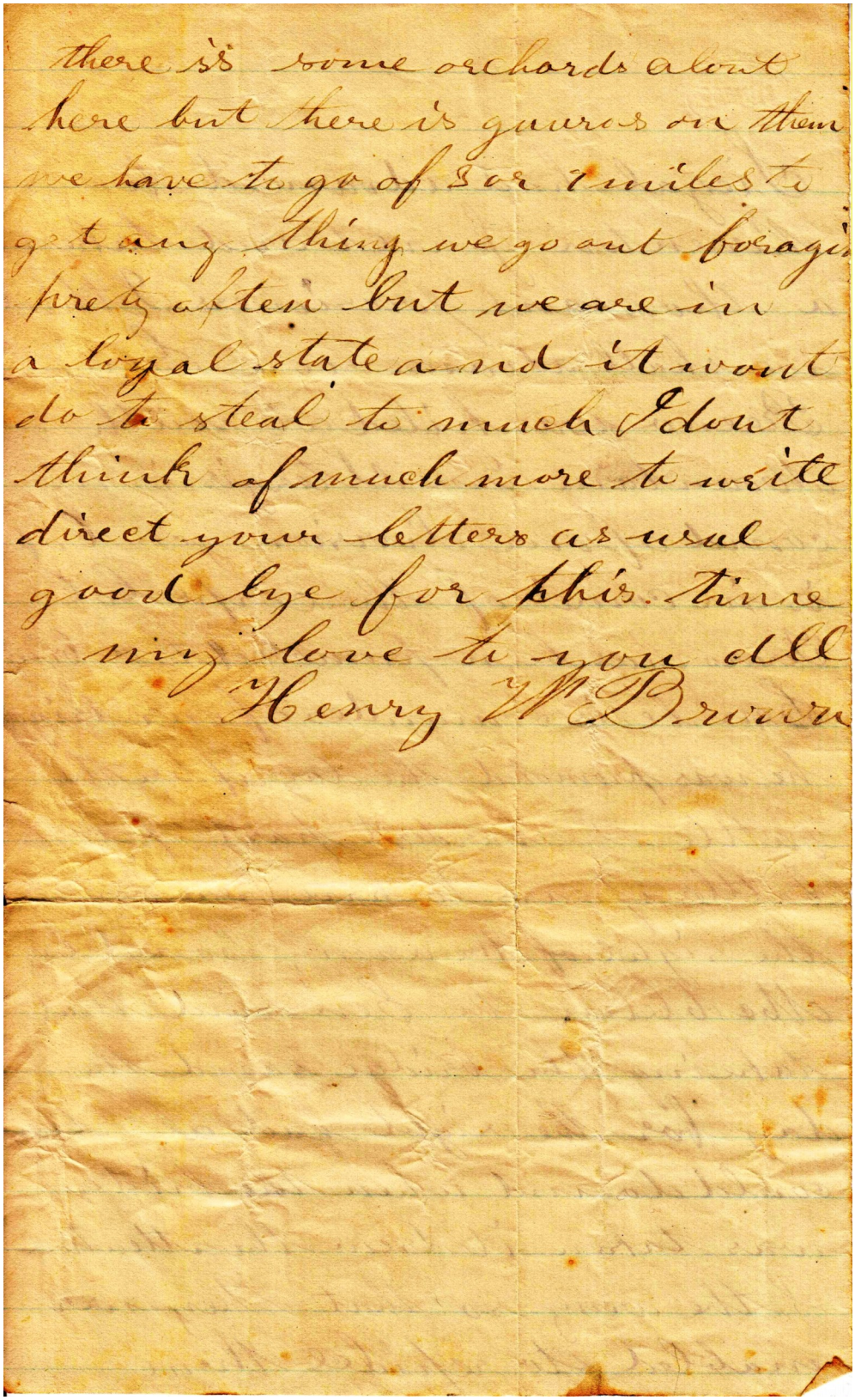
prisioners baggage and cannon
we advanced toward harpers
ferry we came to a hall at a
place called antietan iron works
it is where the creek empty's
into the patomac we have gone
into camp here pickets are
stationed all along the patomac
we were on two days how long
we shall stay here is uncertain
we are under marching orders
our loss at south mountain of
our regt was 7 wounded at
Antieton 92 wounded and 7
killed we had 85 men in
our regt the morning fit
for deauty part of 2 comp'ys
were away we have had some
recruits since the stragglers have
come in so it makes about
3 hundred able for deauty
the regt is in comd of a capt
tell Ashley I will write to him
soon we heard yesterday that

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 8, Antietam, MD



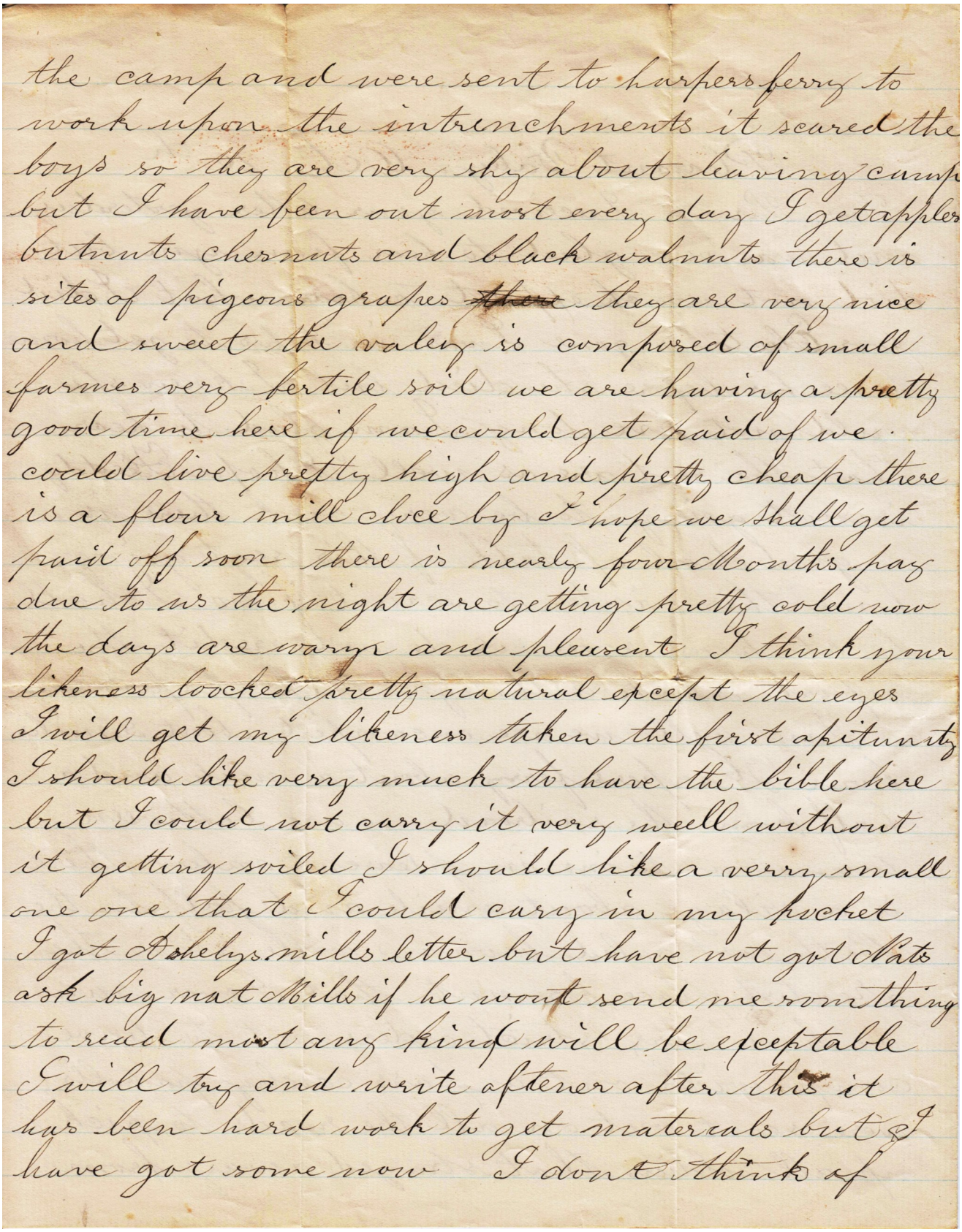
Sieyal had advanced to
Warrenton Jounct and taken
a thousand prasioners I think
we shall advance soon Gen
Reno was killed at south
Mountain Gen Stergis is in
comd of our divsion gen Cox
is in comd of the corps Col
Ferro has been promoted to a brig
Gen he is comander of our brigd
he was promoted the day after the
battle the hardest part of both
battles appears to have been on
the right of the army Comd by
McClelon the Gen said that
taking the bridge saved the
day for the right had all they
could do and when the bridge
was taken it drew the attention
of the army so that they were
enabled to repulse them

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 9, Antietam, MD



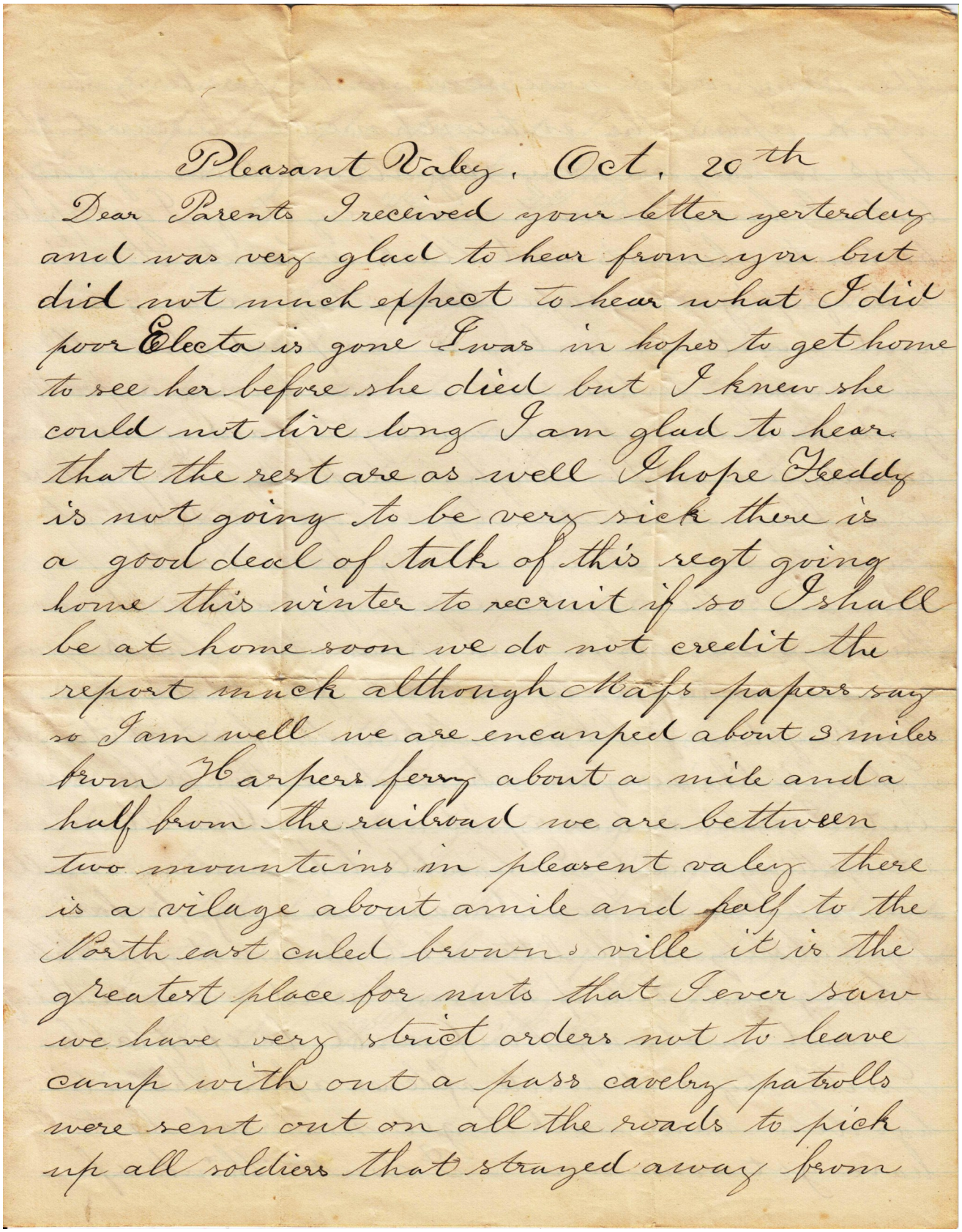
there is some orchards about
here but there is guards on them
we have to go of 3 or 4 miles to
get any thing we go out forag
pretty often but we are in
a loyal state and it wont
do to steal to much I dont
think of much more to write
direct your letters as usual
good bye for this time
my love to you all
Henry W. Brown

October 2, 1862 (1862.10.02) Page 10, Antietam, MD



the camp and were sent to harpers ferry to work upon the intrenchments it scared the boys so they are very shy about leaving camp but I have been out most every day I get apples butnuts chesnuts and black walnuts there is sites of pigeons grapes ~~there~~ they are very nice and sweet the valey is composed of small farmes very fertile soil we are having a pretty good time here if we could get paid of we could live pretty high and pretty cheap there is a flour mill close by I hope we shall get paid off soon there is nearly four Months pay due to us the night are getting pretty cold now the days are warm and pleasent I think your likeness looked pretty natural except the eyes I will get my likeness taken the first apiturnity I should like very much to have the bible here but I could not carry it very well without it getting soiled I should like a very small one one that I could carry in my pocket I got Doshelys mills letter but have not got Nats ask big nat Mills if he wont send me somthing to read most any kind will be exceptable I will try and write oftener after this it has been hard work to get materals but I have got some now I dont think of

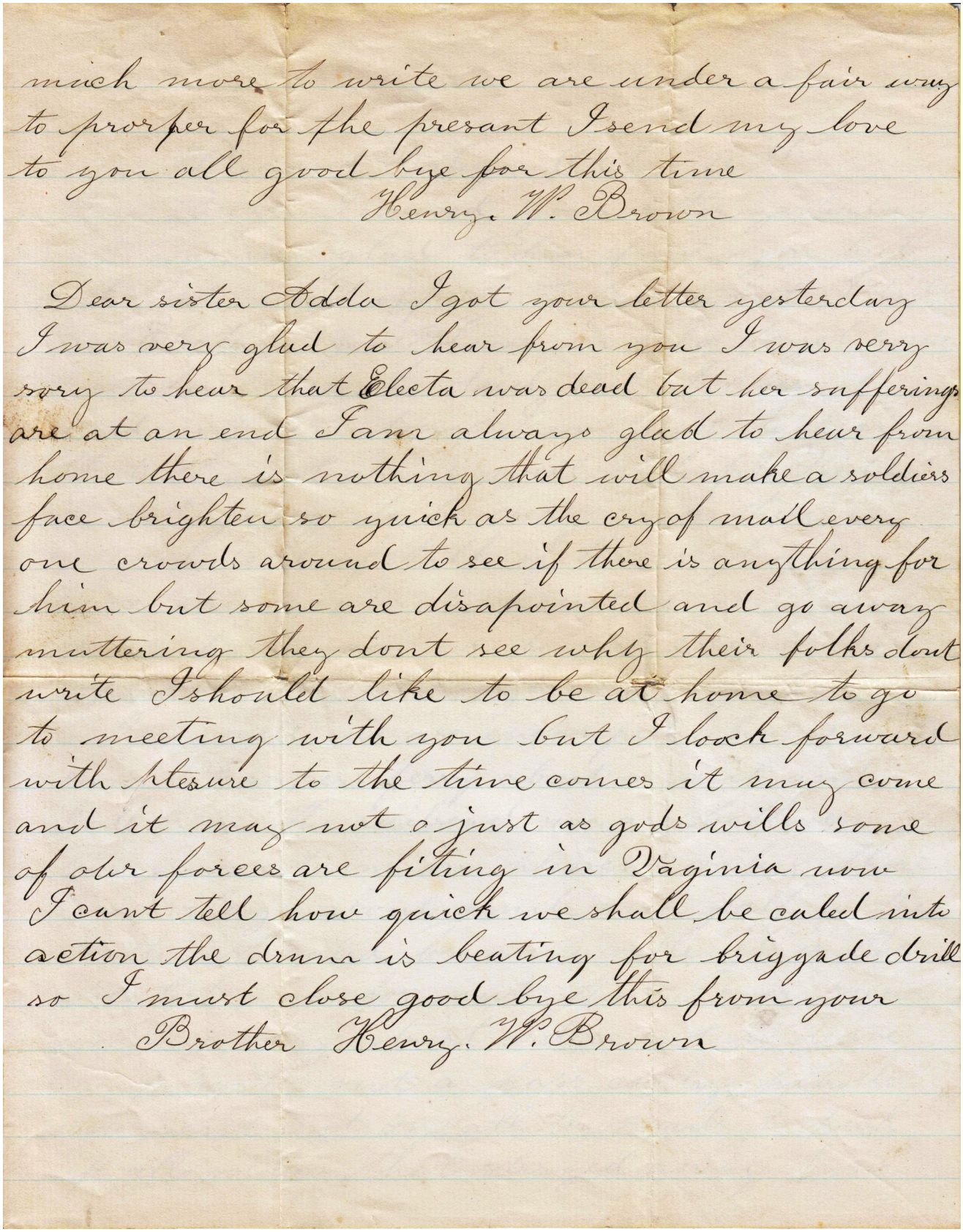
October 20, 1862 (1862.10.20) Page 2, Pleasant Valley



Pleasant Valey. Oct. 20th

Dear Parents I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you but did not much expect to hear what I did poor Electa is gone I was in hopes to get home to see her before she died but I knew she could not live long I am glad to hear that the rest are as well I hope Freddy is not going to be very sick there is a good deal of talk of this regt going home this winter to recruit if so I shall be at home soon we do not credit the report much although Mass papers say so I am well we are encamped about 3 miles from Harpers ferry about a mile and a half from the railroad we are bettween two mountains in pleasent valey there is a vilage about a mile and half to the North east caled brownsville it is the greatest place for nuts that I ever saw we have very strict orders not to leave camp with out a pass cavelry patrolls were sent out on all the roads to pick up all soldiers that strayed away from

October 20, 1862 (1862.10.20) Page 1, Pleasant Valley



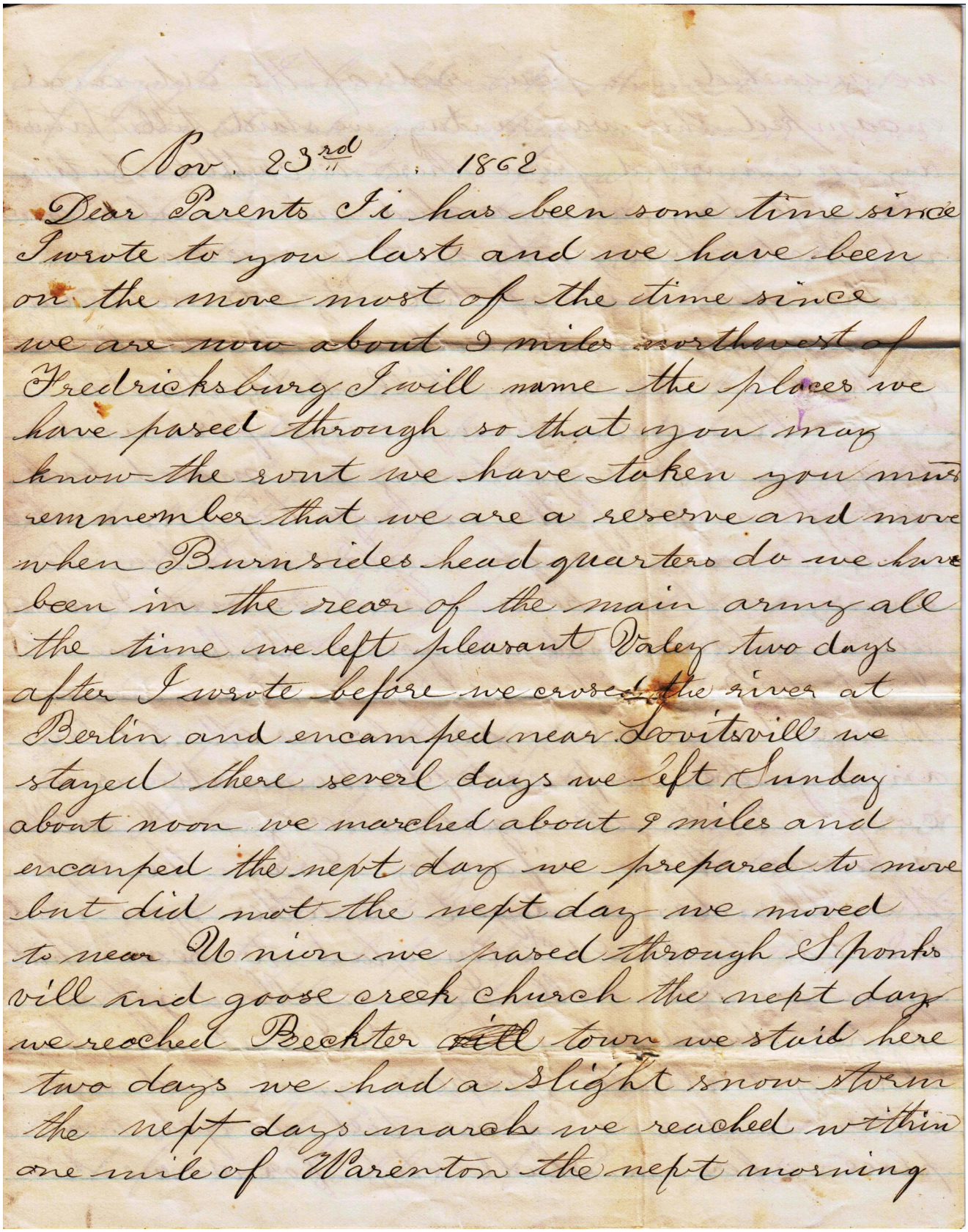
much more to write we are under a fair way to prosper for the present I send my love to you all good bye for this time

Henry. W. Brown

Dear sister Adda I got your letter yesterday I was very glad to hear from you I was very sorry to hear that Electa was dead but her sufferings are at an end I am always glad to hear from home there is nothing that will make a soldiers face brighten so quick as the cry of mail every one crowds around to see if there is anything for him but some are disapointed and go away muttering they dont see why their folks dont write I should like to be at home to go to meeting with you but I look forward with pleasure to the time comes it may come and it may not o just as gods wills some of our forces are fiting in Vaginia now I cant tell how quick we shall be caled into action the druma is beating for brigade drill so I must close good bye this from your

Brother Henry. W. Brown

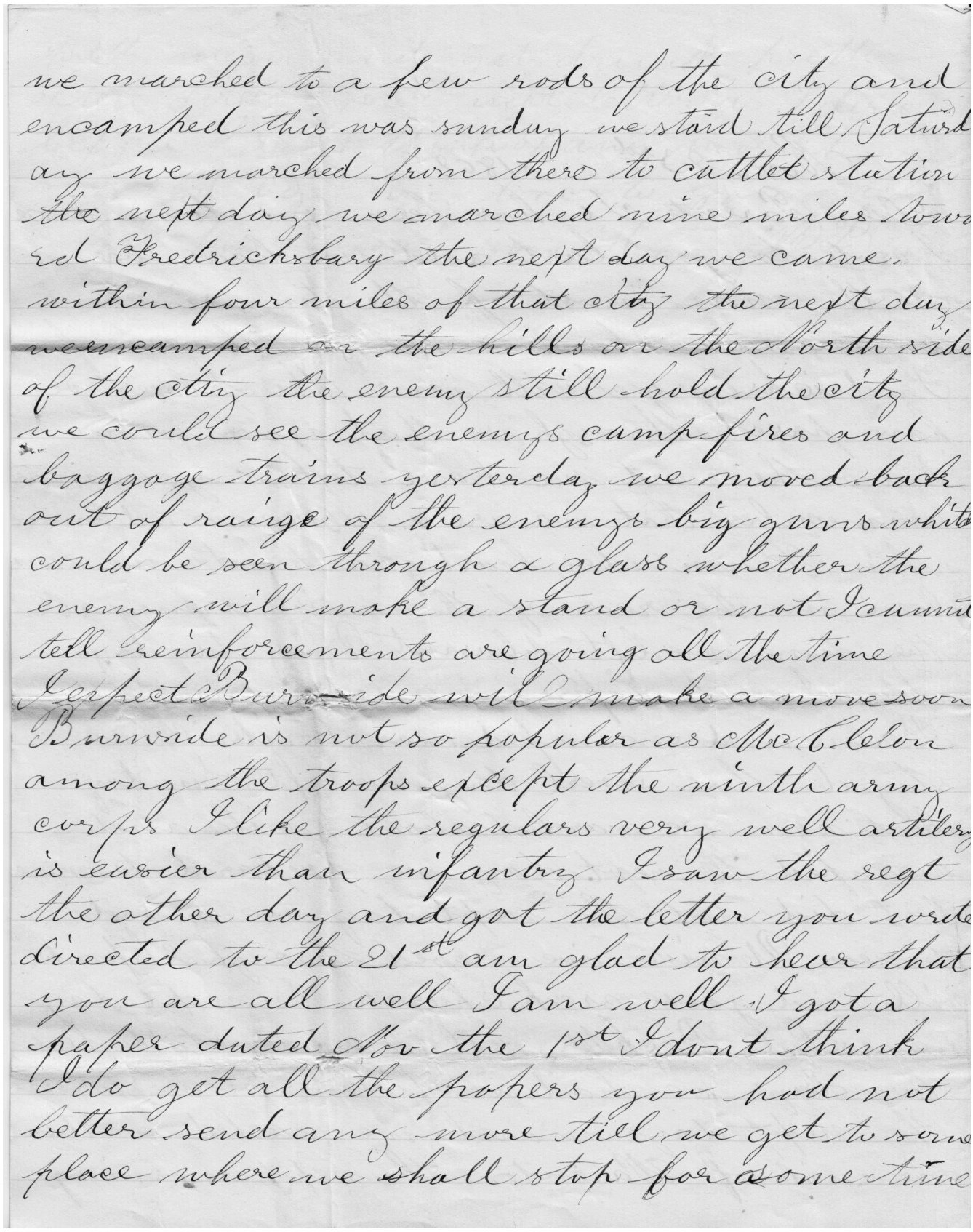
October 20, 1862 (1862.10.20) Page 3, Pleasant Valley



Nov. 23rd 1862

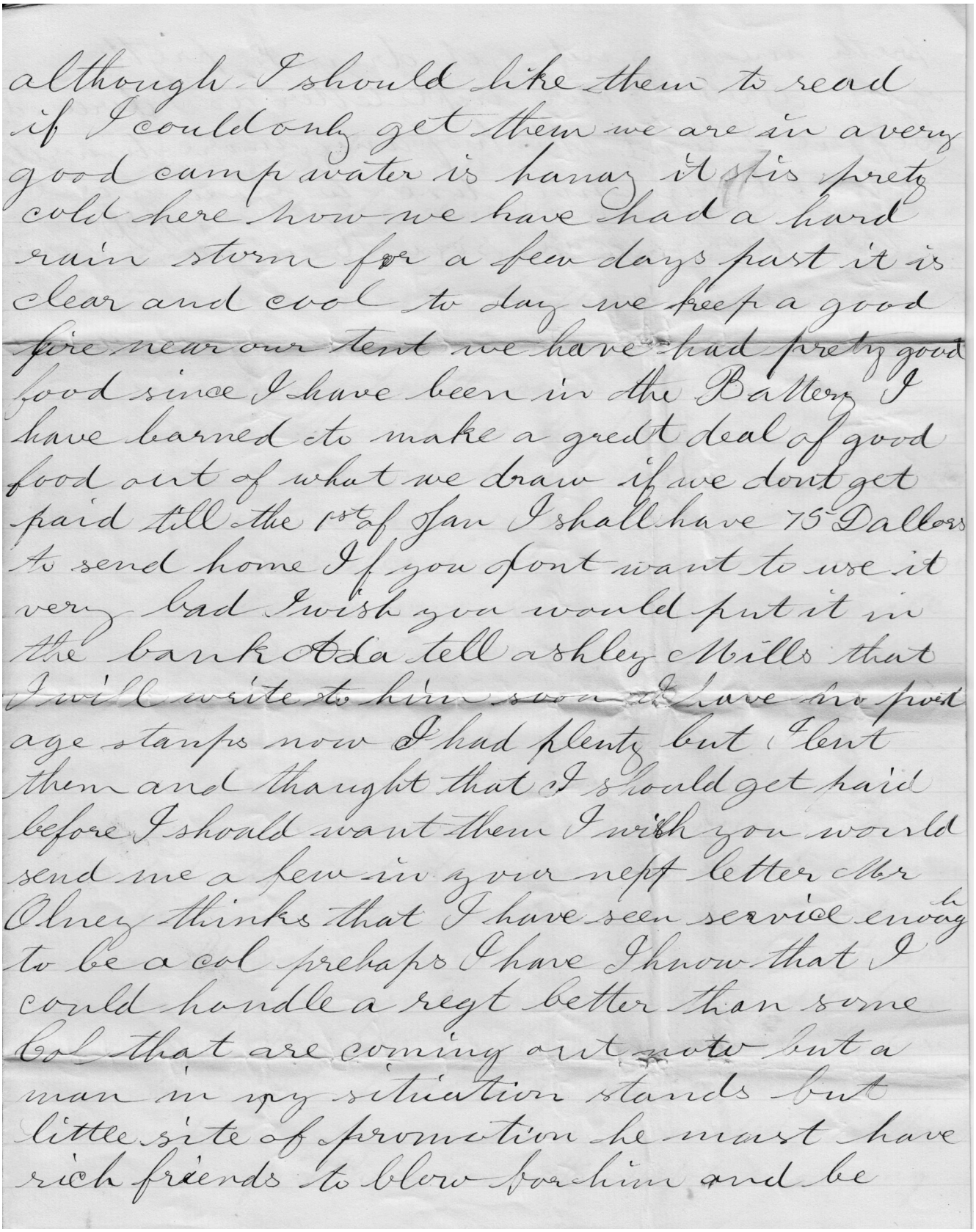
Dear Parents I i has been some time since I wrote to you last and we have been on the move most of the time since we are now about 9 miles northwest of Fredricksburg I will name the places we have paseed through so that you may know the rout we have taken you must remember that we are a reserve and move when Burnsides head quarters do we have been in the rear of the main army all the time we left pleasant Valey two days after I wrote before we crosed the river at Berlin and encamped near Lovitsville we stayed there several days we left Sunday about noon we marched about 9 miles and encamped the nept day we prepared to move but did not the nept day we moved to near Union we paseed through Sponts vill and goose creek church the nept day we reached Beckter ~~till~~ town we staid here two days we had a slight snow storm the nept days march we reached within one mile of Warenton the nept morning

November 23, 1862 (1862.11.23) Page 1, Pleasant Valley to Fredericksburg, VA



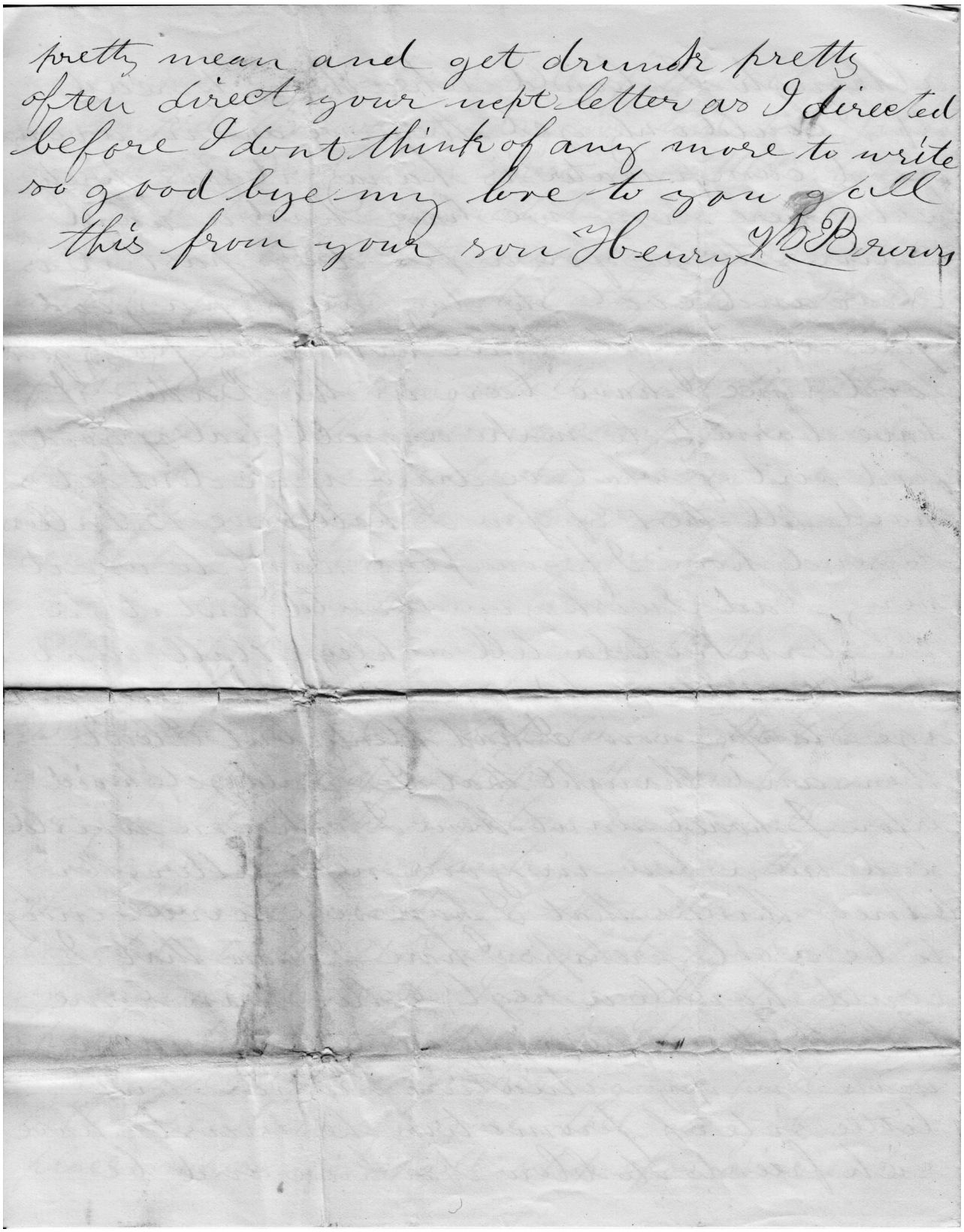
we marched to a few rods of the city and encamped this was sunday we staid till Saturday we marched from there to cattlet station the nept day we marched nine miles towards Fredricksbary the nept day we came within four miles of that city the next day we encamped on the hills on the North side of the city the enemy still hold the city we could see the enemys camp fires and baggage trains yesterday we moved back out of raingе of the enemys big guns which could be seen through a glass whether the enemy will make a stand or not I cannot tell reinforcements are going all the time I expect Burnside will make a move soon Burnside is not so popular as McClelon among the troops except the ninth army corps I like the regulars very well artilery is easier than infantry I saw the regt the other day and got the letter you wrote directed to the 21st am glad to hear that you are all well I am well I got a paper dated Nov the 1st I dont think I do get all the papers you had not better send any more till we get to some place where we shall stop for some time

November 23, 1862 (1862.11.23) Page 2, Pleasant Valley to Fredericksburg, VA



although I should like them to read
if I could only get them we are in a very
good camp water is handy it is pretty
cold here now we have had a hard
rain storm for a few days past it is
clear and cool to day we keep a good
fire near our tent we have had pretty good
food since I have been in the Battery I
have learned to make a great deal of good
food out of what we draw if we dont get
paid till the 1st of Jan I shall have 75 Dollars
to send home If you dont want to use it
very bad I wish you would put it in
the bank Ada tell Ashley Mills that
I will write to him soon I have no post
age stamps now I had plenty but I lent
them and thought that I should get paid
before I should want them I wish you would
send me a few in your next letter Mr
Olney thinks that I have seen service enough
to be a col perhaps I have I know that I
could handle a regt better than some
Col that are coming out now but a
man in my situation stands but
little site of promotion he must have
rich friends to blow for him and be

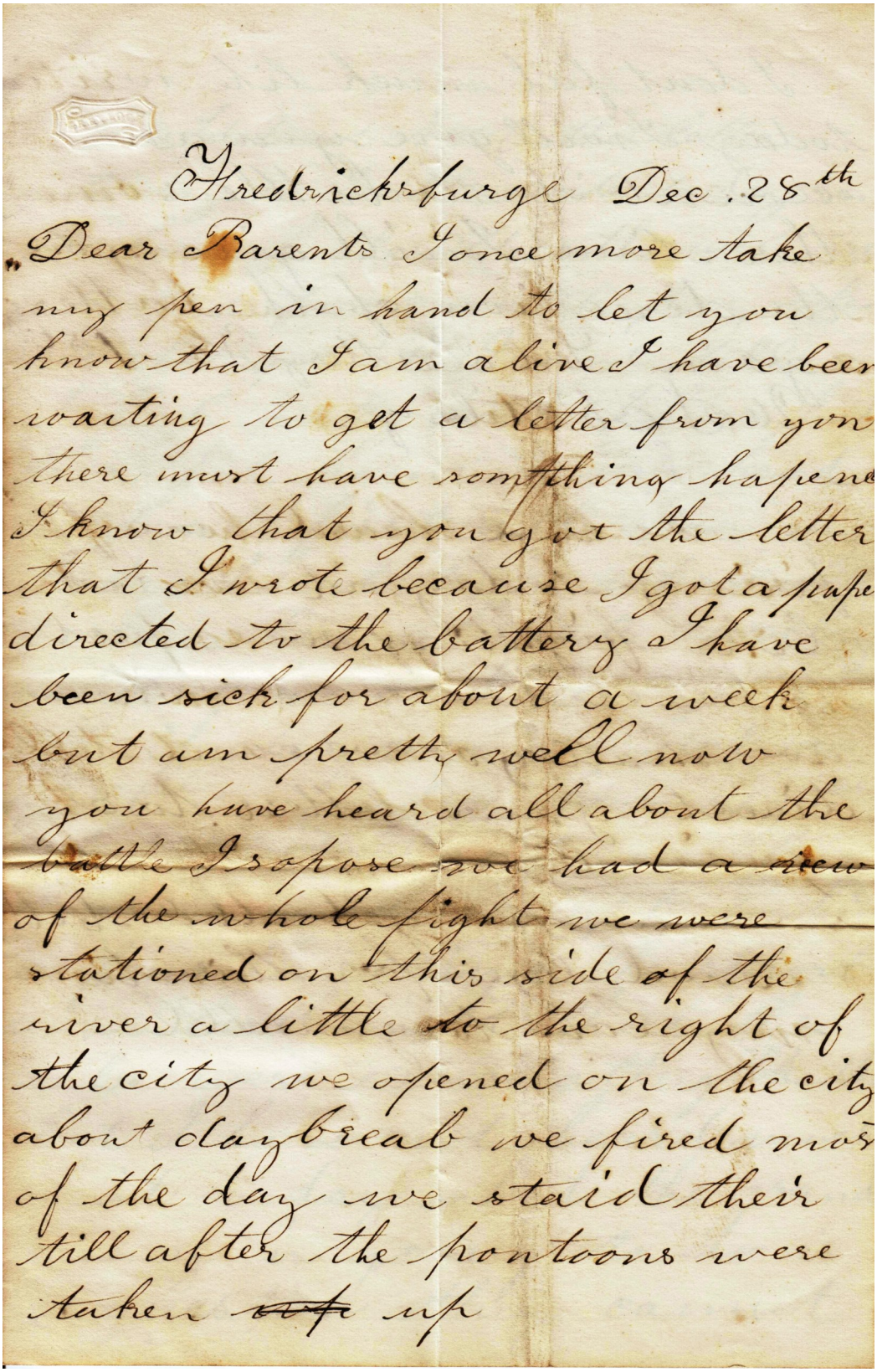
November 23, 1862 (1862.11.23) Page 3, Pleasant Valley to Fredericksburg, VA


pretty mean and get drunk pretty
often direct your next letter as I directed
before I dont think of any more to write
so good bye my love to you & all
this from your son Henry W. Brown

November 11, 1862 (1862.11.23) Page 4, Pleasant Valley to Fredericksburg, VA



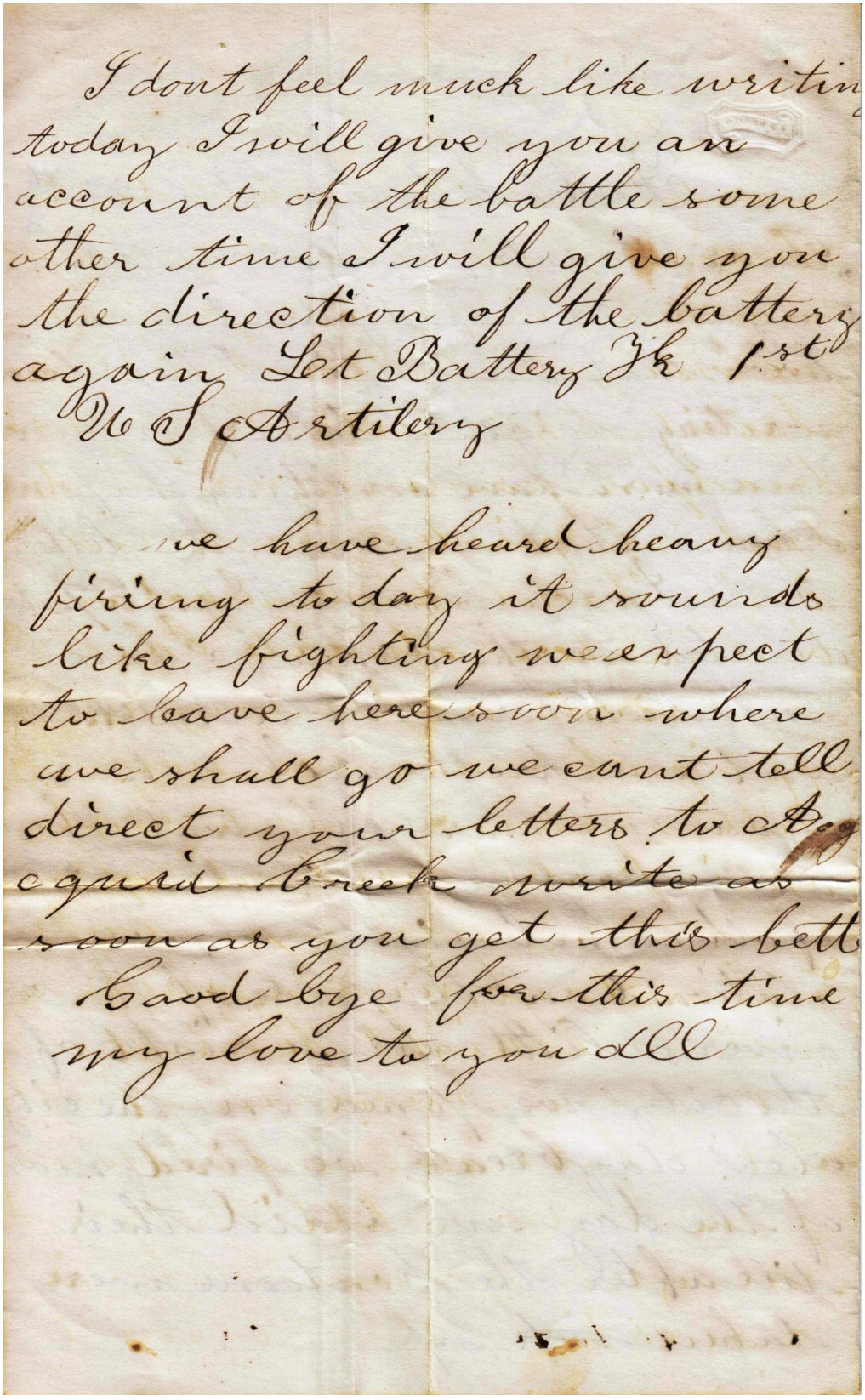
November 23, 1862 (1862.11.23) Envelope, Pleasant Valley to Fredericksburg, VA



Fredricksburge Dec. 28th

Dear Parents I once more take my pen in hand to let you know that I am alive I have been waiting to get a letter from you there must have something hapened I know that you got the letter that I wrote because I got a paper directed to the battery I have been sick for about a week but am pretty well now you have heard all about the ~~battle I suppose now had a view~~ of the whole fight we were ~~stationed~~ on this side of the river a little to the right of the city we opened on the city about daybreak we fired most of the day we staid their till after the pontoons were taken ~~off~~ up

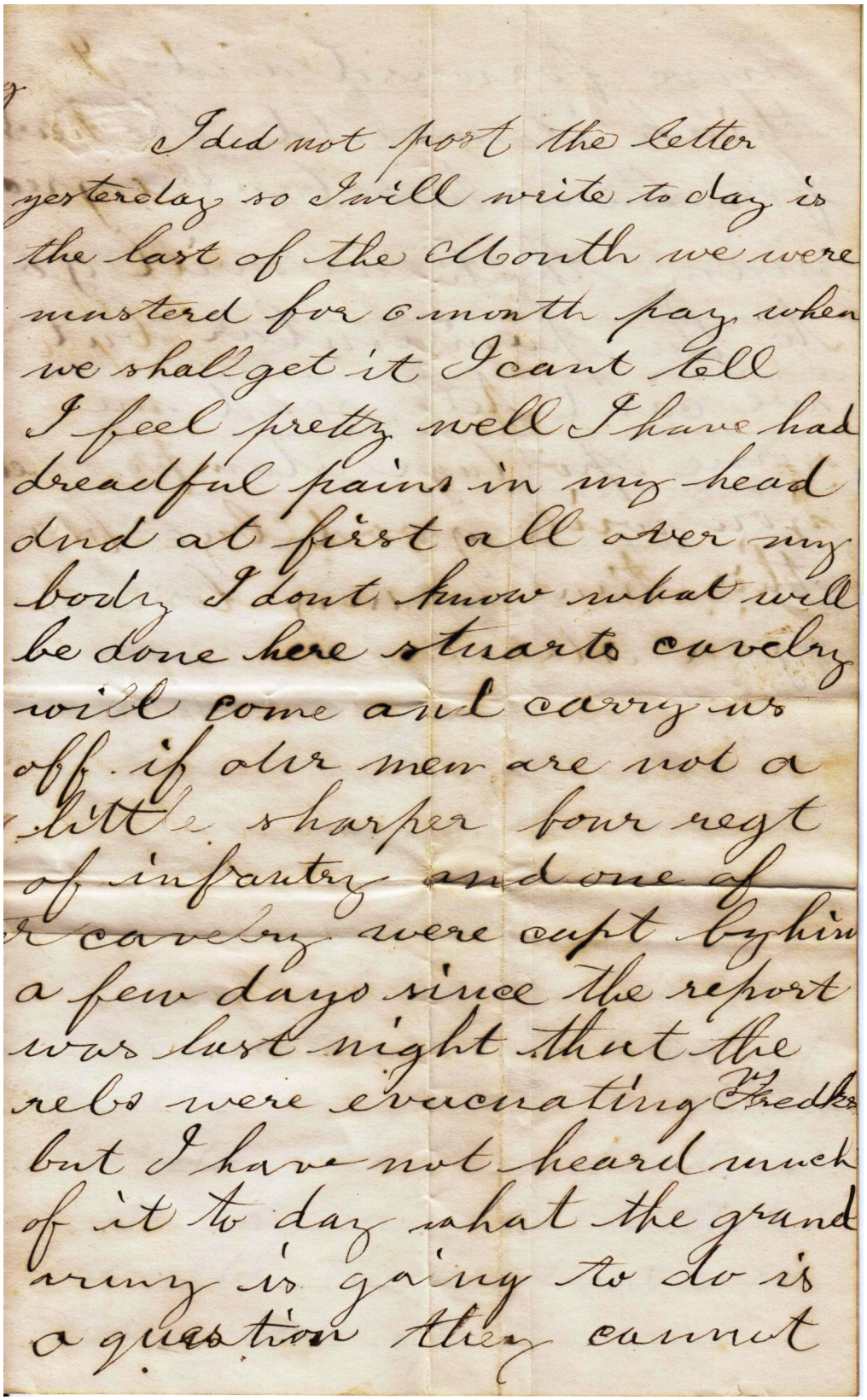
December 28, 1862 (1862.12.28) Page 1, Fredericksburg, VA



I dont feel much like writin
today I will give you an
account of the battle some
other time I will give you
the direction of the battery
again Let Battery Ik 1st
U S Artilery

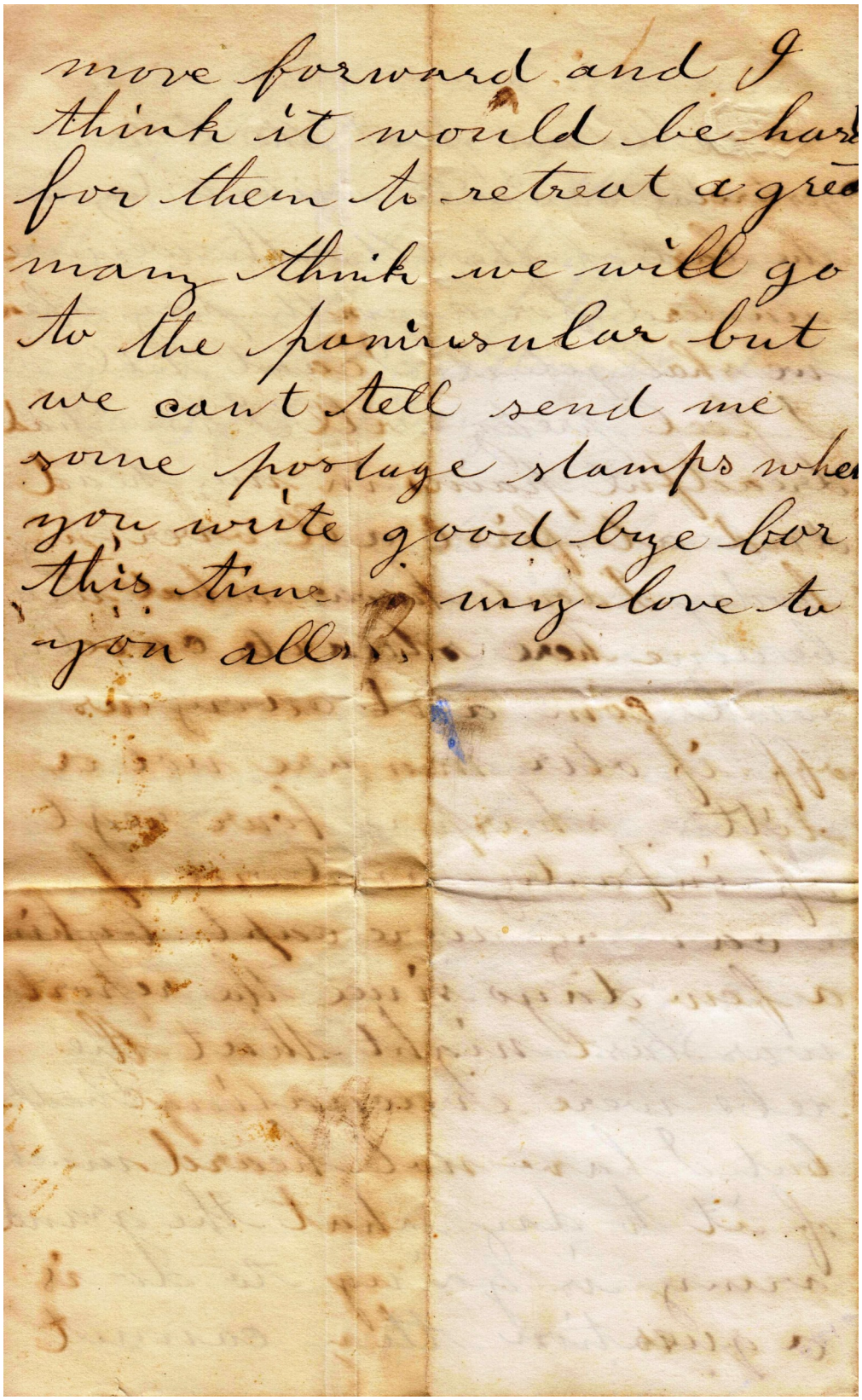
we have heard heavy
firing to day it sounds
like fighting we expect
to leave here soon where
we shall go we cant tell
direct your letters to A.
& quid Creek write as
soon as you get this bett
Good bye for this time
my love to you all

December 28, 1862 (1862.12.28) Page 2, Fredericksburg, VA

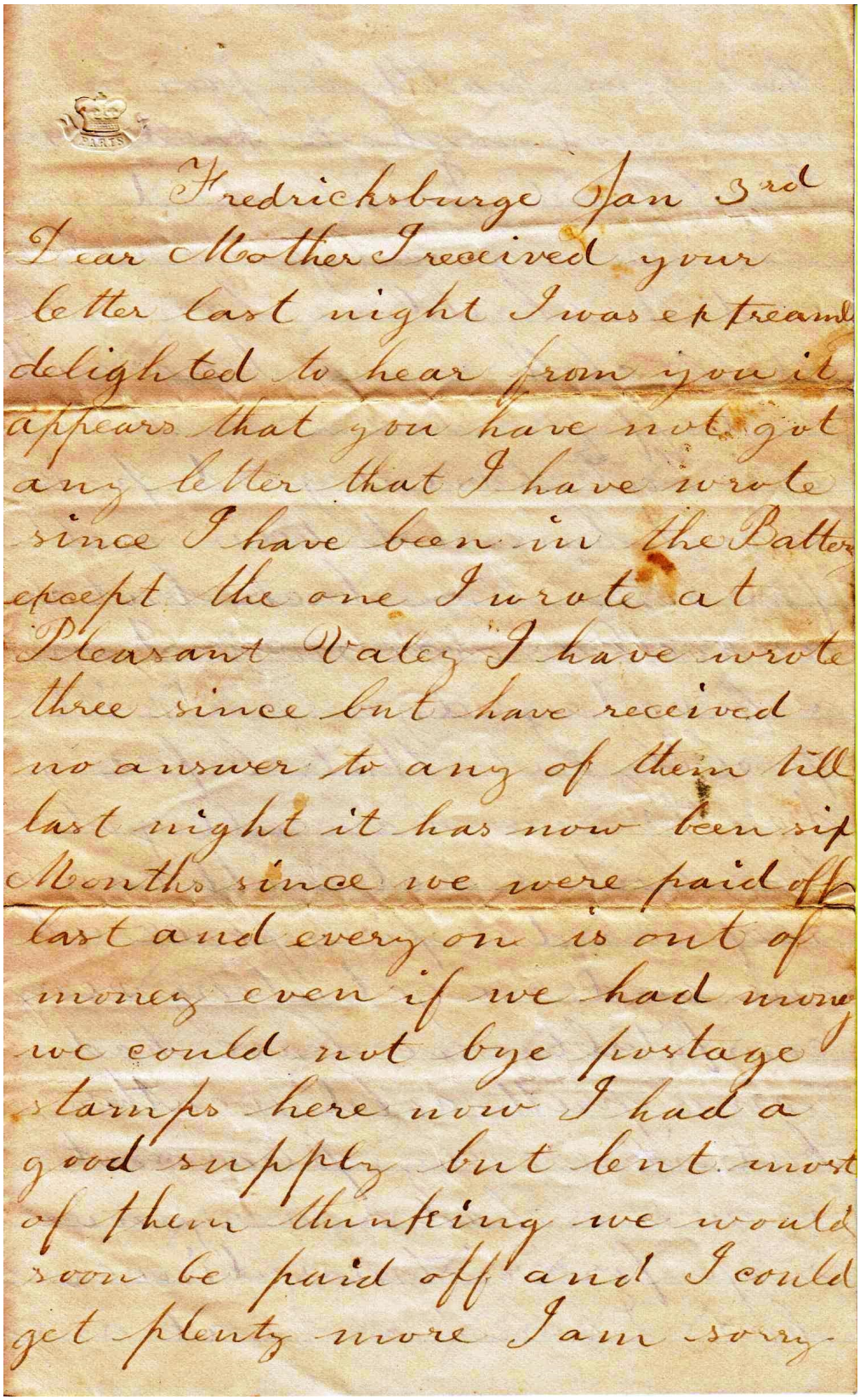


I did not post the letter
yesterday so I will write to day is
the last of the month we were
mustered for a month pay when
we shall get it I cant tell
I feel pretty well I have had
dreadful pains in my head
and at first all over my
body I dont know what will
be done here Stuarts cavelry
will come and carry us
off. if our men are not a
little sharper four regt
of infantry and one of
cavelry were capt by him
a few days since the report
was last night that the
rebs were evacuating Fredks
but I have not heard much
of it to day what the grand
army is going to do is
a question they cannot

December 28, 1862 (1862.12.28) Page 3, Fredericksburg, VA

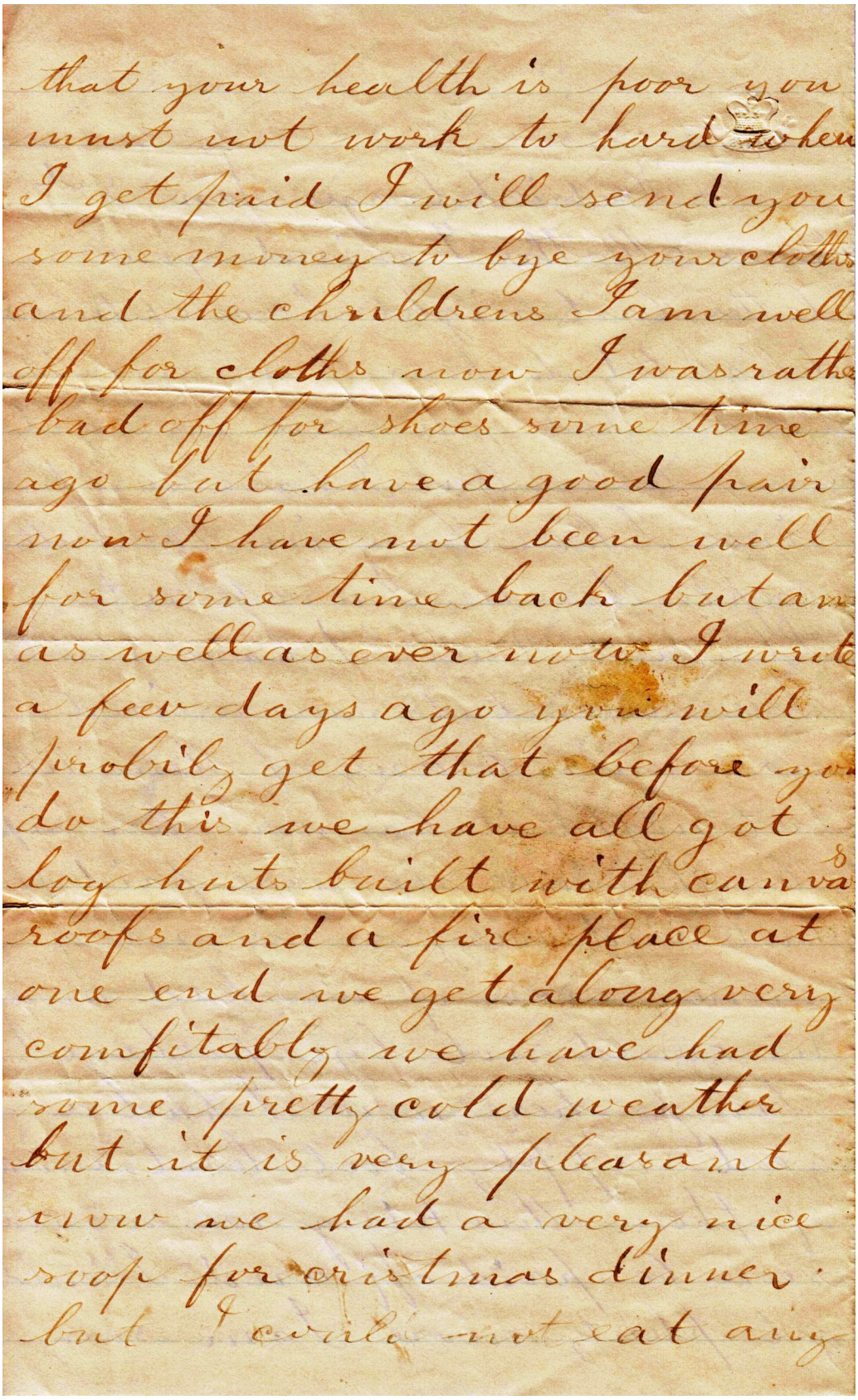

move forward and I
think it would be hard
for them to retreat a gre
many think we will go
to the peninsular but
we can't tell send me
some postage stamps whe
you write good bye for
this time my love to
you all

December 28, 1862 (1862.12.28) Page 4, Fredericksburg, VA



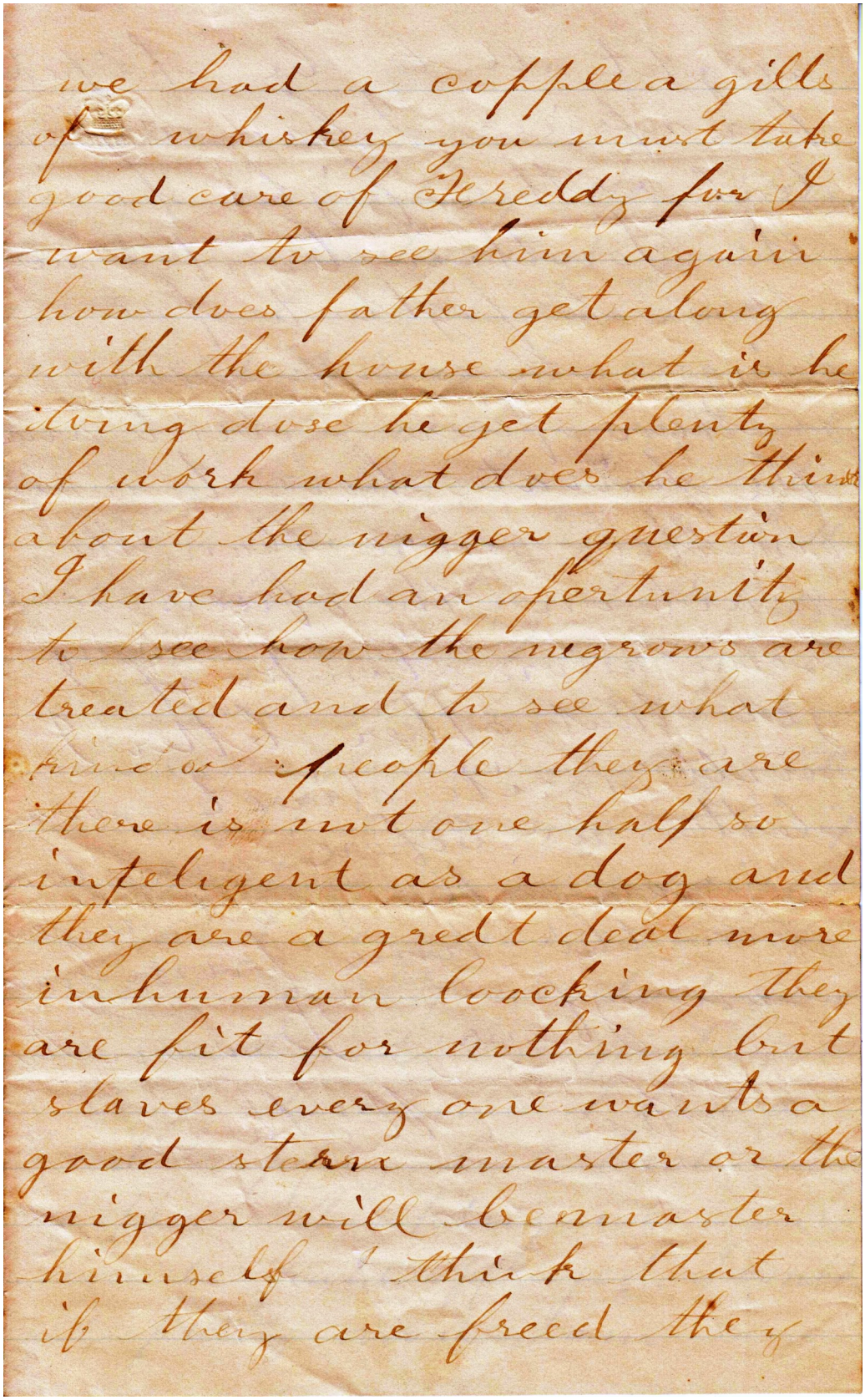
Fredrichsburge Jan 3rd
Dear Mother I received your
letter last night I was exstream
delighted to hear from you it
appears that you have not got
any letter that I have wrote
since I have been in the Batter
except the one I wrote at
Pleasant Valey I have wrote
three since but have received
no answer to any of them till
last night it has now been six
Months since we were paid off
last and every on is out of
money even if we had now
we could not bye postage
stamps here now I had a
good supply but lent most
of them thinking we would
soon be paid off and I could
get plenty more I am sorry

January 3, 1863 (1863.01.03) Page 1, Fredericksburg, VA



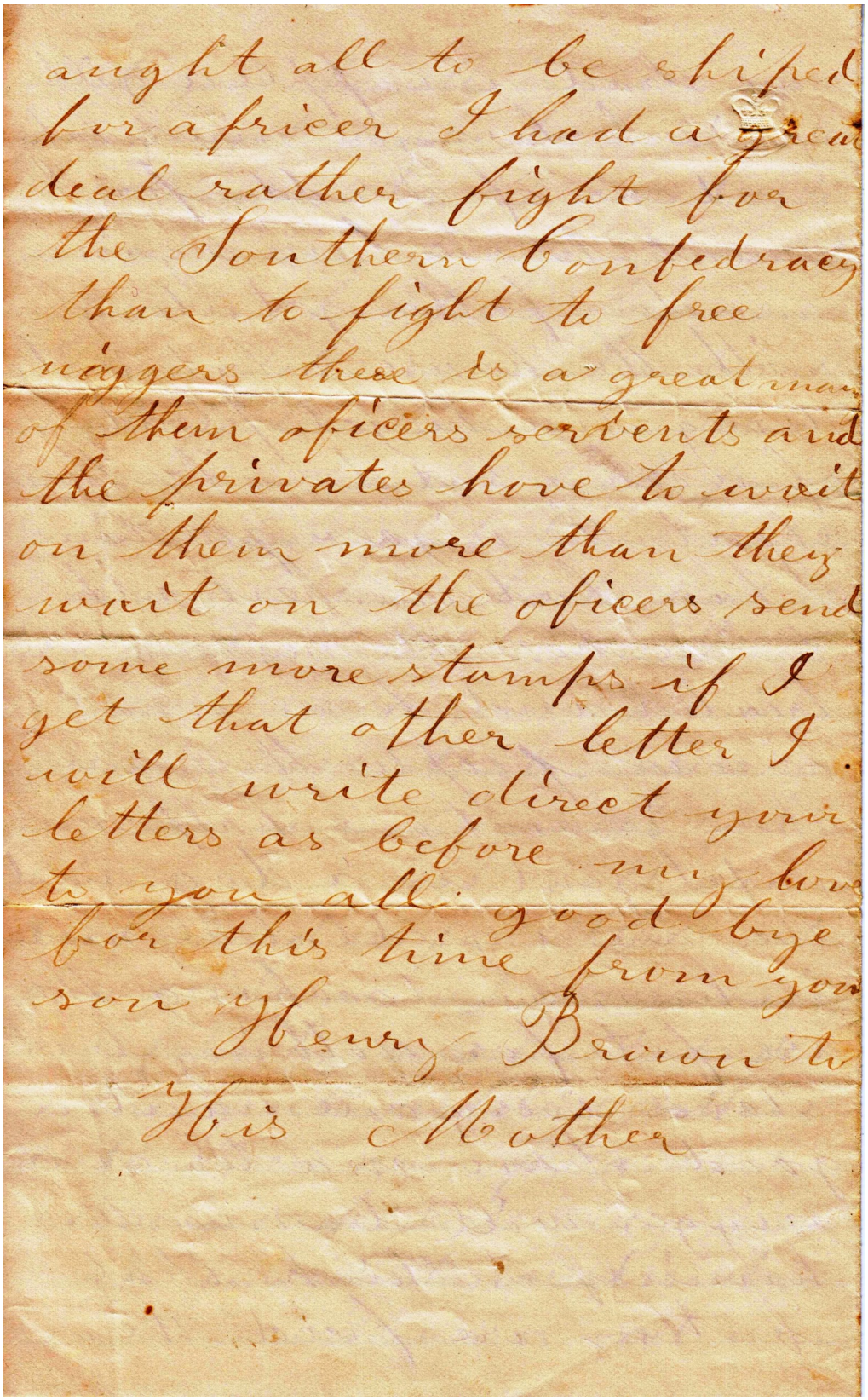
that your health is poor you
must not work to hard when
I get paid I will send you
some money to bye your cloths
and the childrens I am well
off for cloths now I was rather
bad off for shoes some time
ago but have a good pair
now I have not been well
for some time back but am
as well as ever now I wrote
a few days ago you will
probily get that before you
do this we have all got
log huts built with canvas
roofs and a fire place at
one end we get along very
comfitably we have had
some pretty cold weather
but it is very pleasant
now we had a very nice
soop for christmas dinner
but I could not eat any

January 3, 1863 (1863.01.03) Page 2, Fredericksburg, VA



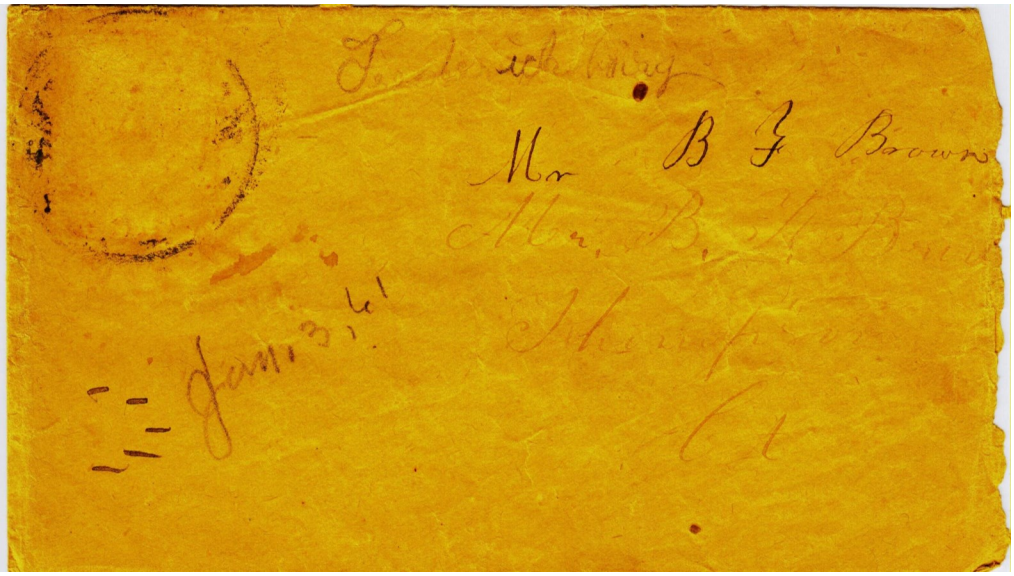
we had a coppl a gills
of whiskey you must take
good care of Freddy for I
want to see him again
how does father get along
with the horse what is he
doing does he get plenty
of work what does he think
about the nigger question
I have had an opertunity
to see how the negrows are
treated and to see what
kind of people they are
there is not one half so
intelligent as a dog and
they are a great deal more
inhuman looking they
are fit for nothing but
slaves every one wants a
good stern master or the
nigger will be master
himself I think that
if they are freed they

January 3, 1863 (1863.01.03) Page 3, Fredericksburg, VA

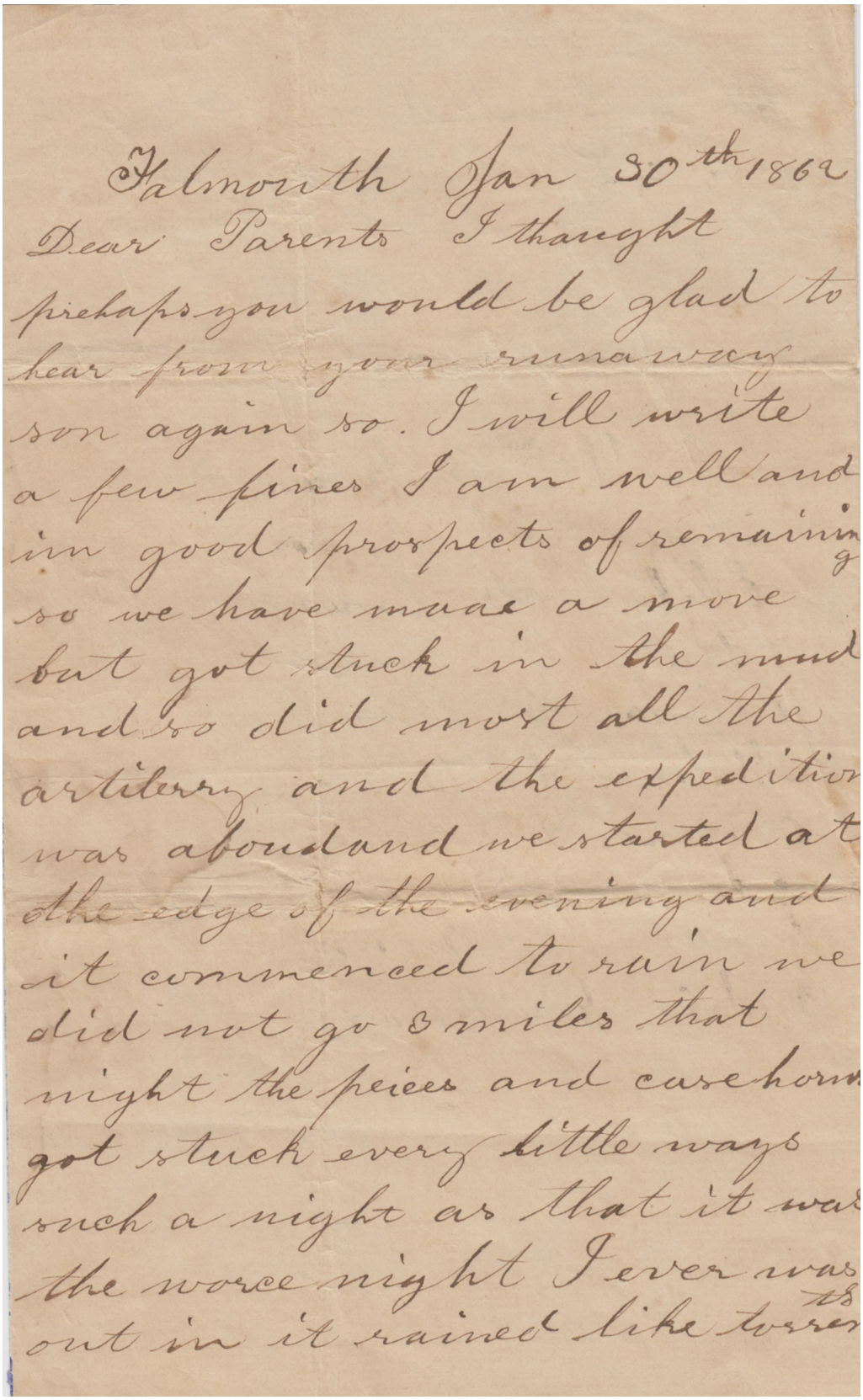


aught all to be shiped
for a ficer I had a great
deal rather fight for
the Southern Confederacy
than to fight to free
niggers there is a great many
of them oficers servents and
the privates have to wait
on them more than they
wait on the oficers send
some more stamps if I
get that other letter I
will write direct your
letters as before my love
to you all good bye
for this time from your
son Henry Brown to
His Mother

January 3, 1863 (1863.01.03) Page 4, Fredericksburg, VA

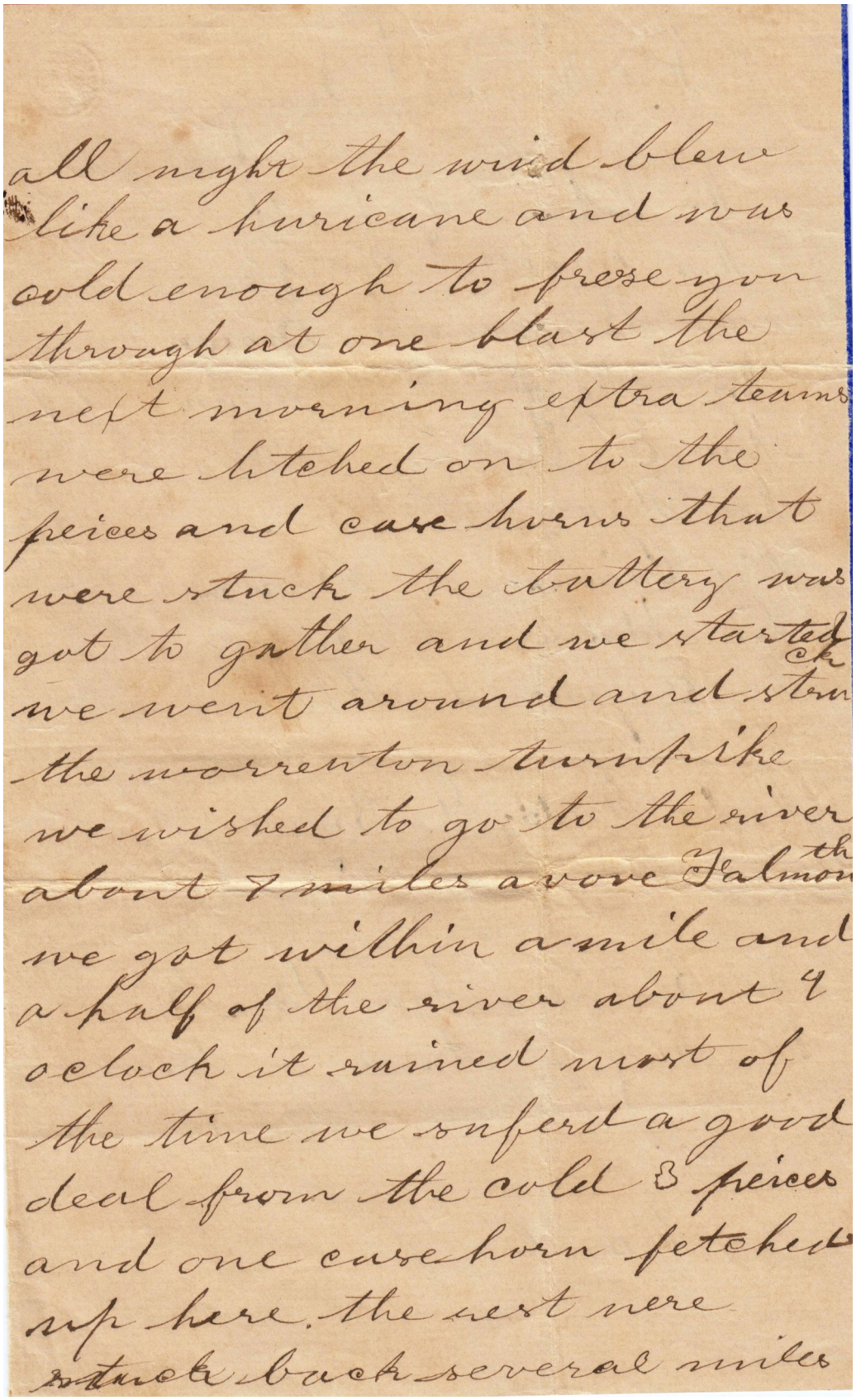


January 3, 1863 (1862.01.03) Envelope, Fredericksburg, VA



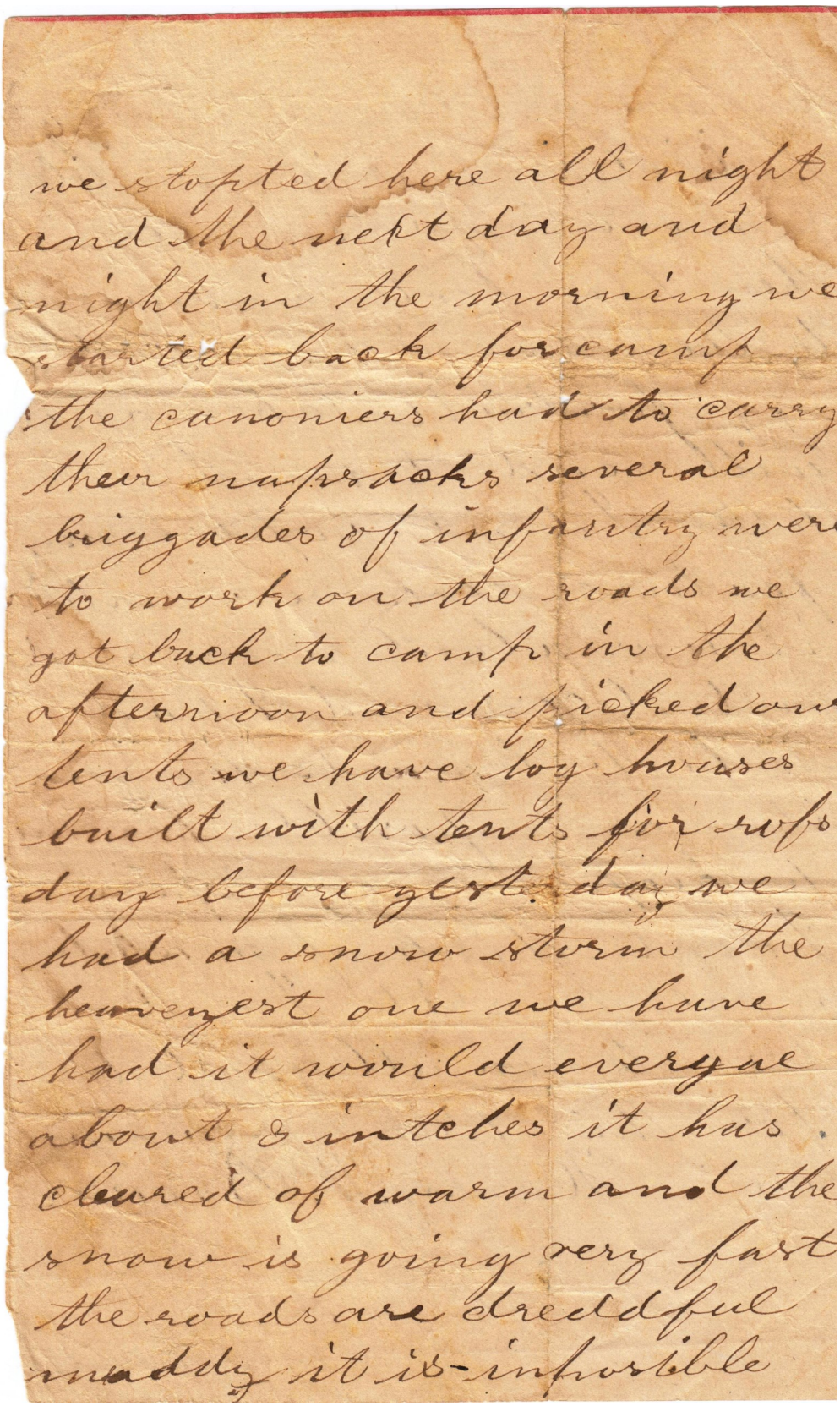
Falmouth Jan 30th 1862
Dear Parents I thought
pirhaps you would be glad to
hear from your runaway
son again so. I will write
a few lines I am well and
in good prospects of remaining
so we have maae a move
but got stuck in the mud
and so did most all the
artilery and the expedition
was aboud and we started at
the edge of the evening and
it commenced to rain we
did not go 8 miles that
night the peices and caisons
got stuck every little ways
such a night as that it was
the worse night I ever was
out in it rained like torrents

January 30, 1863 (1863.01.30) Page 1, Falmouth, VA - Mud March



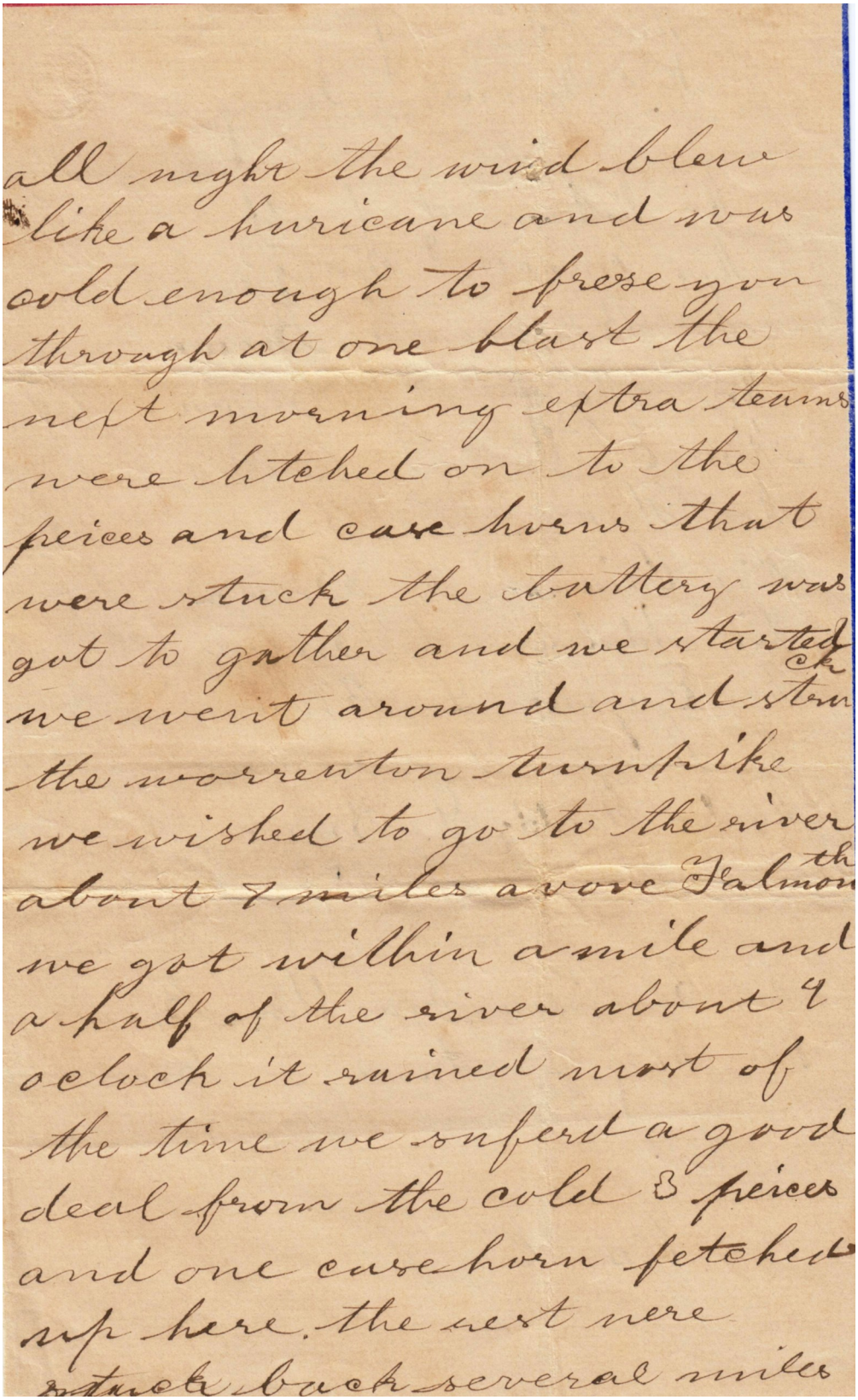
all night the wind blew
like a hurricane and was
cold enough to freze you
through at one blast the
next morning extra teams
were hitched on to the
peices and caisson horses that
were stuck the battery was
got to gather and we started
we went around and struck
the warrenton turnpike
we wished to go to the river
about 7 miles above Falmouth
we got within a mile and
a half of the river about 4
o'clock it rained most of
the time we suffered a good
deal from the cold 3 peices
and one caisson fetched
up here. the rest were
struck back several miles

January 30, 1863 (1863.01.30) Page 2, Falmouth, VA - Mud March



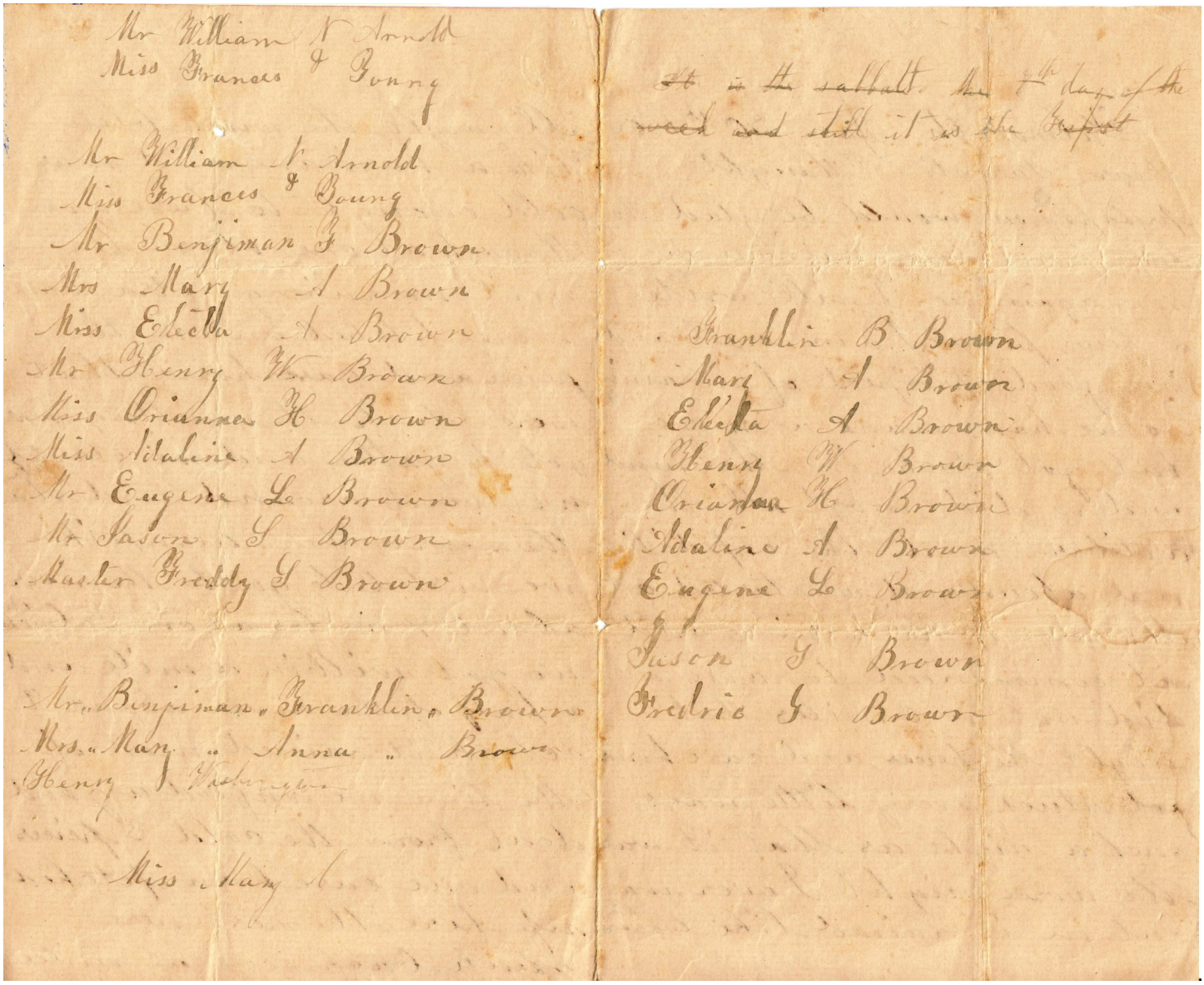
we stopted here all night and the next day and night in the morning we started back for camp the canoniers had to carry their knapsacks several biggades of infantry were to work on the roads we got back to camp in the afternoon and picked our tents we have log houses built with tents for roofs day before yesterday we had a snow storm the heaviest one we have had it would average about 8 inches it has cleared off warm and the snow is going very fast the roads are dreadful muddy it is-impossible

January 30, 1863 (1863.01.30) Page 3, Falmouth, VA - Mud March



all night the wind blew
like a hurricane and was
cold enough to freese you
through at one blast the
next morning extra teams
were hitched on to the
peices and cave horns that
were stuck the battery was
got to gather and we started
we went around and struck
the warrenton turnpike
we wished to go to the river
about 7 miles above Falmouth
we got within a mile and
a half of the river about 9
o'clock it rained most of
the time we suffered a good
deal from the cold 3 peices
and one cave horn fetched
up here. the rest were
struck back several miles

January 30, 1863 (1863.01.30) Page 3, Falmouth, VA - Mud March



Mr William N Arnold
Miss Frances E Young

Mr William N Arnold
Miss Frances E Young
Mr Benjiman F Brown
Mrs Mary A Brown
Miss Electa A Brown
Mr Henry W Brown
Miss Orianna H Brown
Miss Idaline A Brown
Mr Eugene L Brown
Mr Jason G Brown
Master Freddy G Brown

Mr Benjiman Franklin Brown
Mrs Mary Anna Brown
Henry Washington

Miss Mary A

It is the sabbath the 1st day of the week and still it is the Lord's

Franklin B Brown
Mary A Brown
Electa A Brown
Henry W Brown
Orianna H Brown
Idaline A Brown
Eugene L Brown
Jason G Brown
Fredric G Brown

January 30, 1863 (1863.01.30) Family Information, Falmouth, VA - Mud March



1863.01.30 Envelope, Falmouth, VA, Mud March

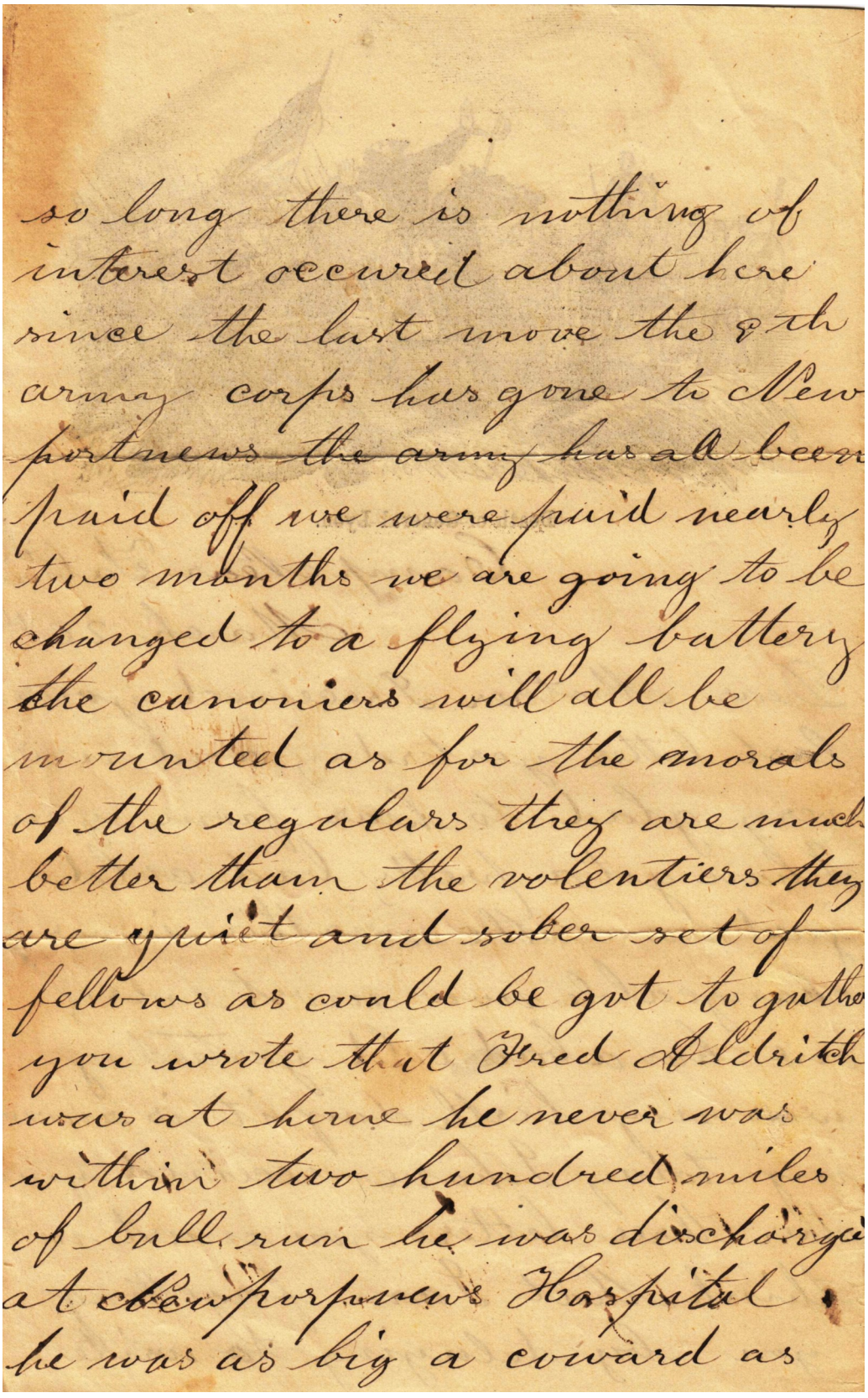


Death of General Lyon.

Camp Near Falmouth
March 20th

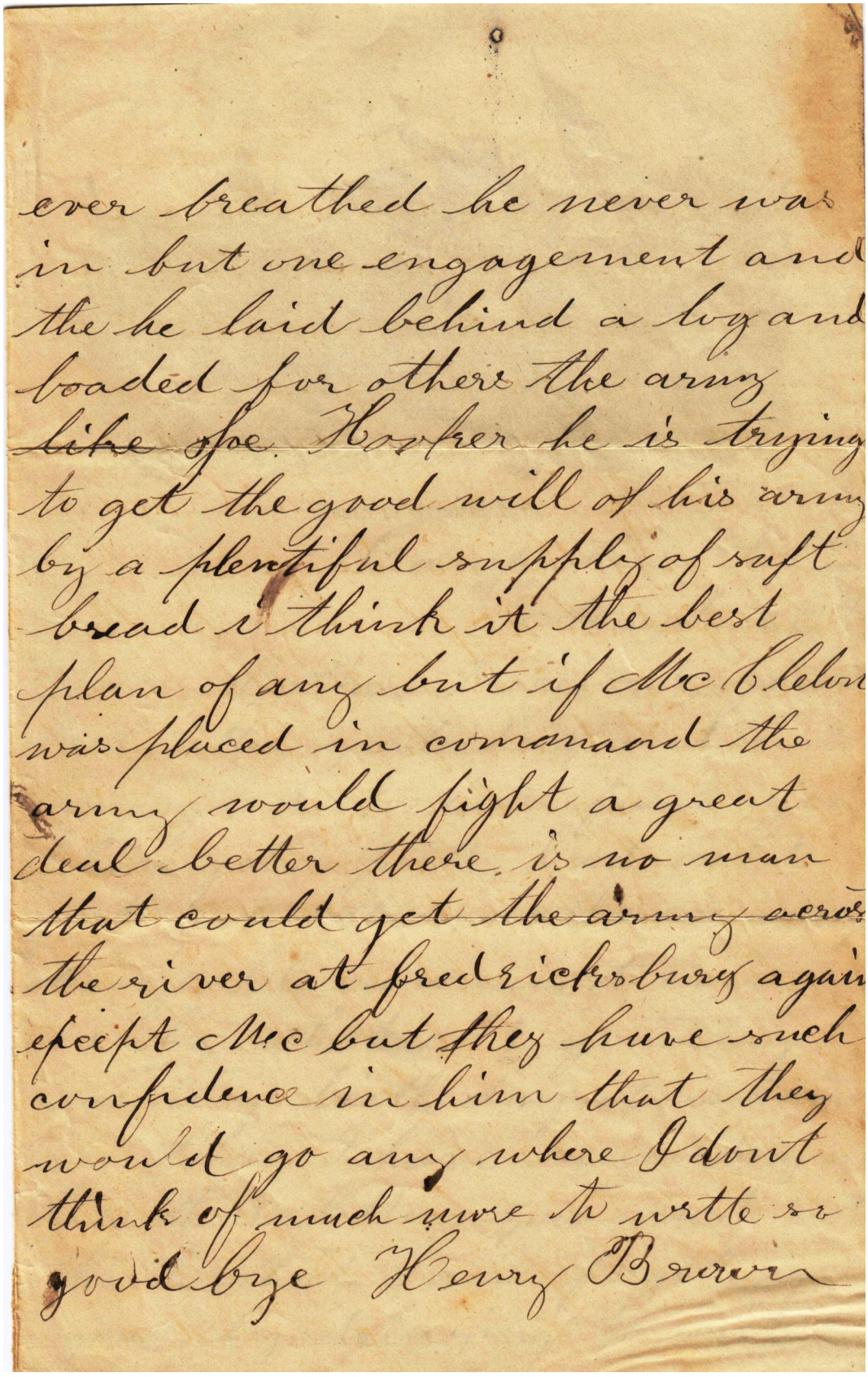
Dear Mother I received your last letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you I have got a pretty bad cold just now the weather is very changeable now most every one has a bad cold yesterday was my birth day it is snowing today I have received your other three letters you must not think that I am forgetting you by delaying to write

March 20, 1863 (1863.03.20) Page 1, Falmouth, VA



so long there is nothing of
interest occured about here
since the last move the 6th
army corps has gone to New
portnews ~~the army has all been~~
paid off we were paid nearly
two months we are going to be
changed to a flying battery
the canoniers will all be
mounted as for the morals
of the regulars they are much
better than the volentiers they
are ~~a~~ quiet and sober set of
fellows as could be got to gether
you wrote that Fred Aldrich
was at home he never was
within two hundred miles
of bull run he was discharged
at ~~Fort~~ Portsmouth Hospital
he was as big a coward as

March 20, 1863 (1863.03.20) Page 2, Falmouth, VA



ever breathed he never was
in but one engagement and
the he laid behind a log and
loaded for other the army
like Joe Hooker he is trying
to get the good will of his army
by a plentiful supply of soft
bread I think it the best
plan of any but if McClelon
was placed in comaand the
army would fight a great
deal better there is no man
that could get the army acros
the river at fredricksburg again
epcipt Mc but they have such
confidence in him that they
would go any where I dont
think of much more to write so
good bye Henry P Brown

March 20, 1863 (1863.03.20) Page 3, Falmouth, VA



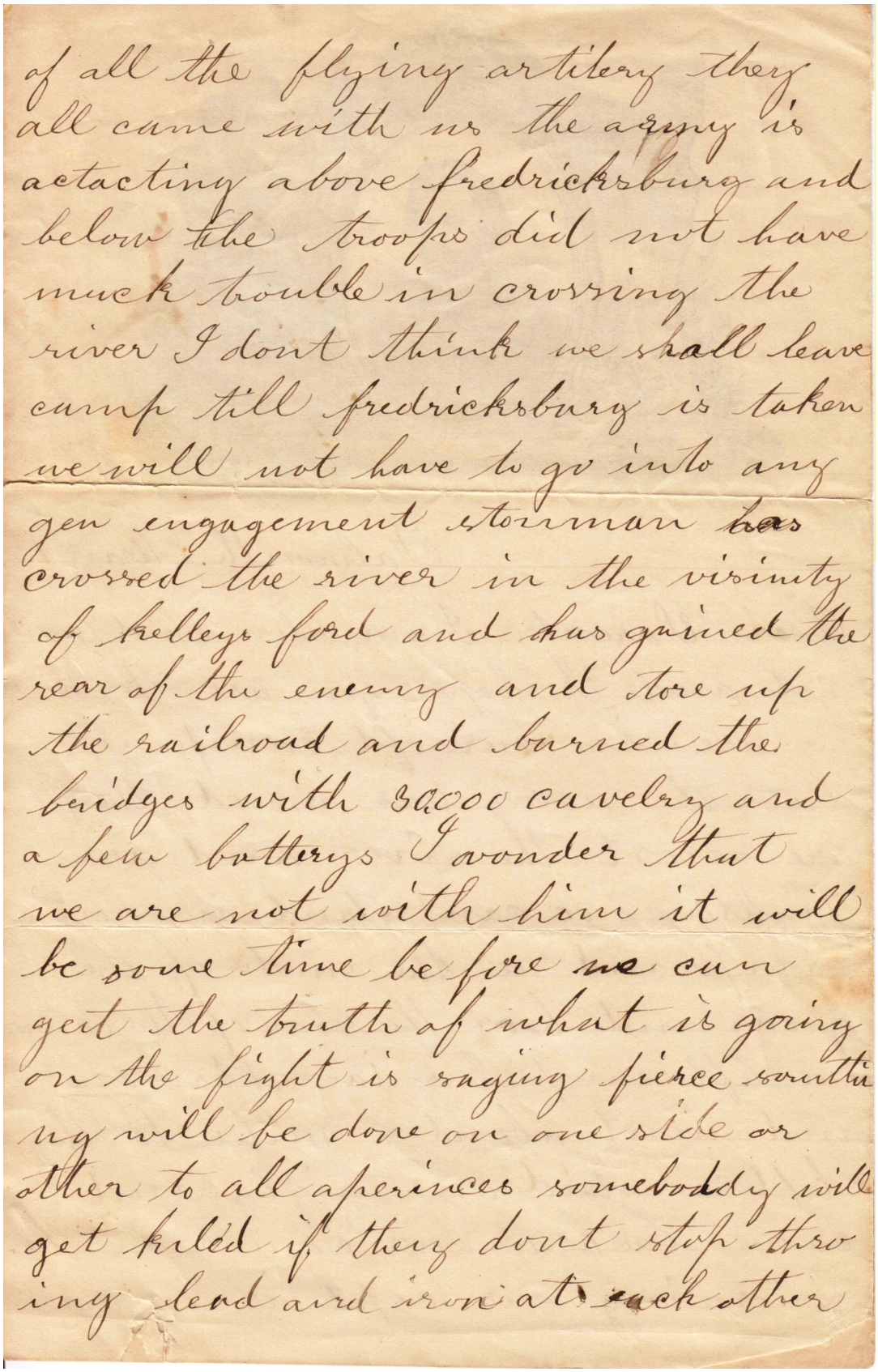
Falmouth May 1st

Dear Parents I am alive and well yet and I hope you are the same we are in our old camp yet but the army has moved they are acrost the river and are fighting we can stand in our camp and see the smoke of the guns and hear the roar of the cannon we left camp tuesday afternoon and went about 8 miles to the left we staid over night and came back to our camp in the morning our capt is in comm

May 1, 1863 (1863.05.01) Page 1, Falmouth, VA

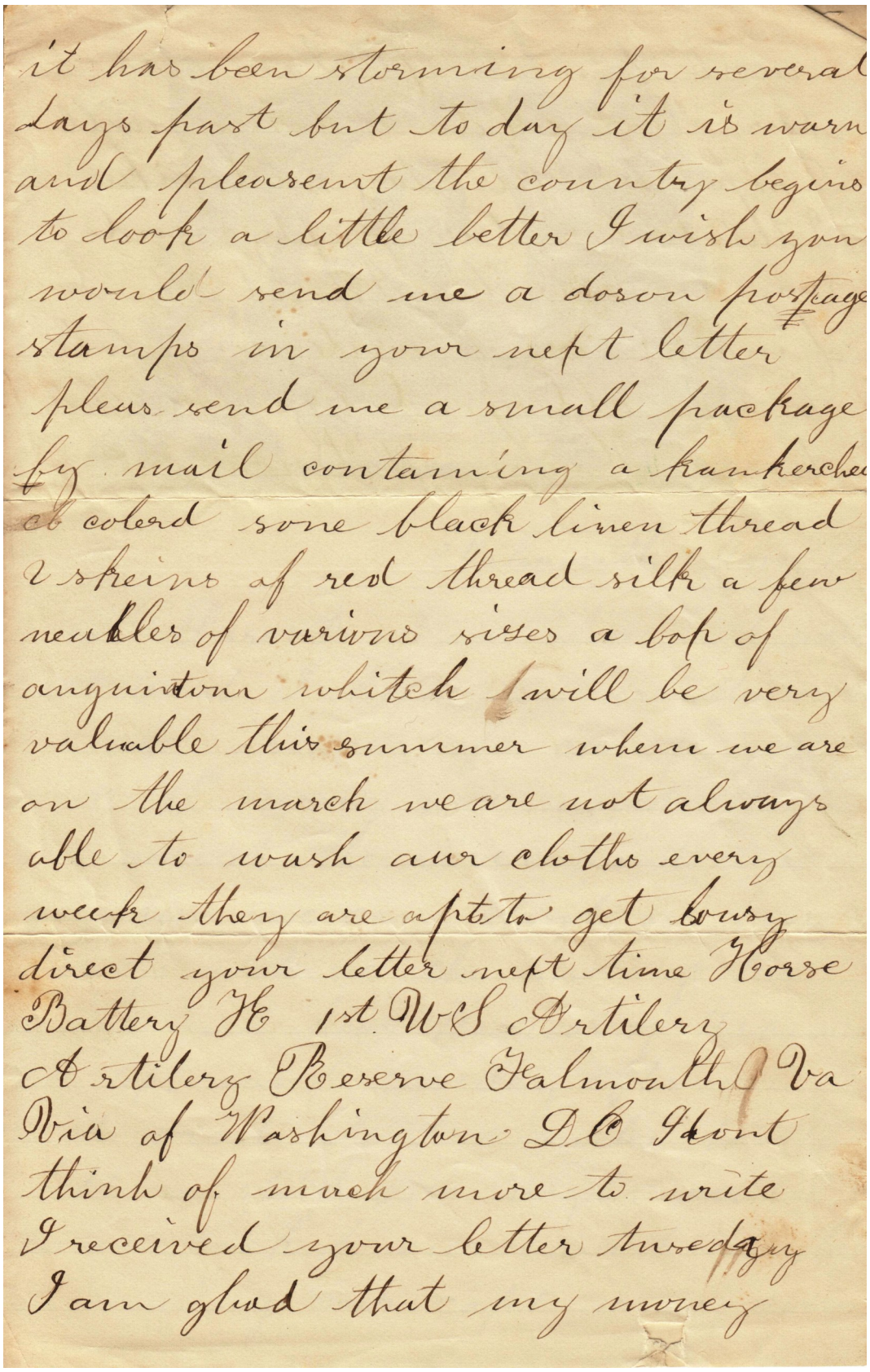


May 1, 1863 (1863.05.01) Page 1, Falmouth, VA



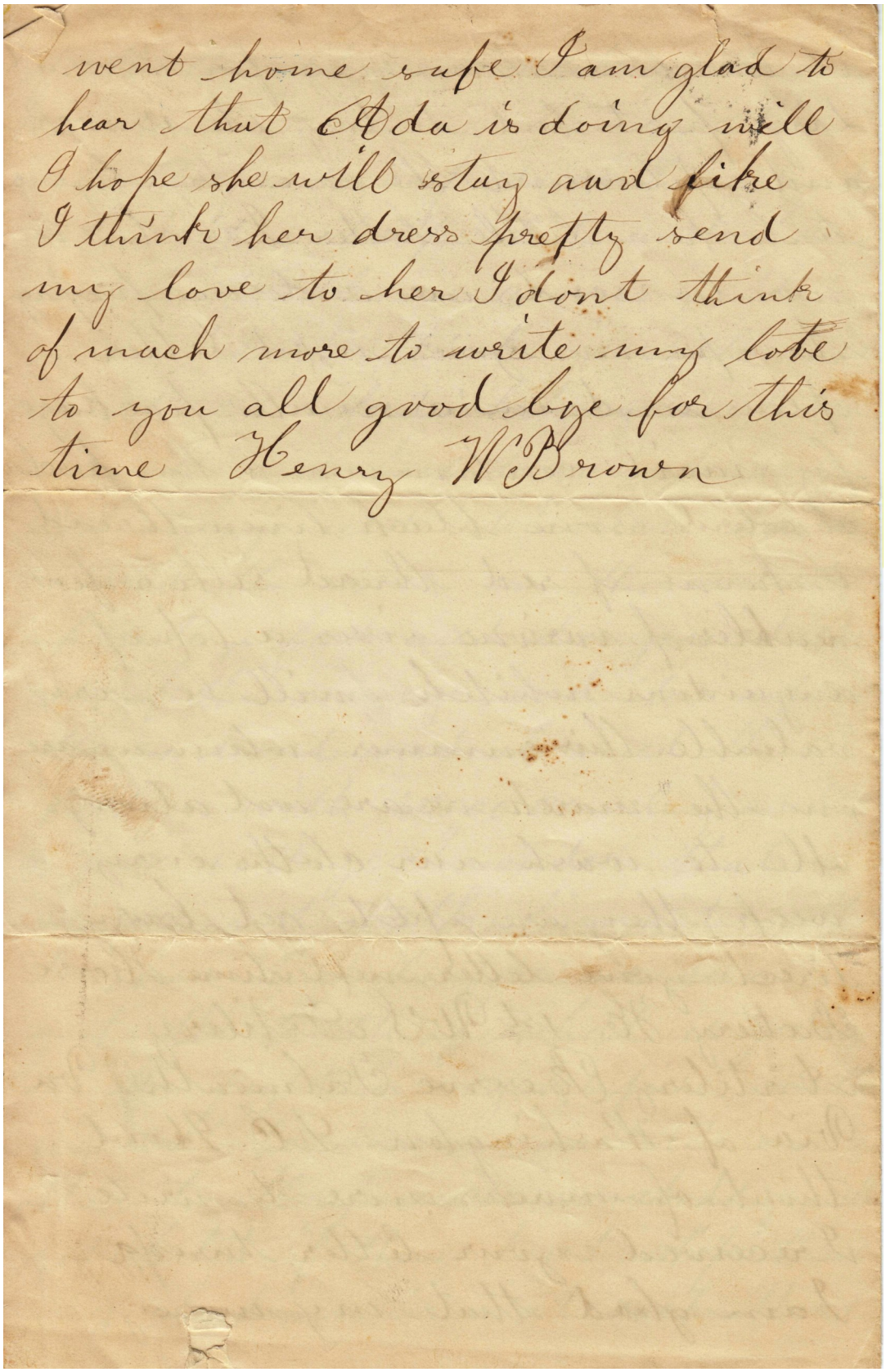
of all the flying artilery they all came with us the army is actacting above fredricksburg and below the troops did not have much trouble in crossing the river I dont think we shall leave camp till fredricksbury is taken we will not have to go into any gen engagement stonman has crossed the river in the visinity of kelleys ford and has gained the rear of the enemy and tore up the railroad and burned the bridges with 30000 cavelry and a few batterys I wonder that we are not with him it will be some time before we can get the truth of what is going on the fight is raging fierce somthing will be done on one side or other to all apearnces somebody will get kild if they dont stop throwing lead and iron at each other

May 01, 1863 (1863.05.01) Page 2, Falmouth, VA



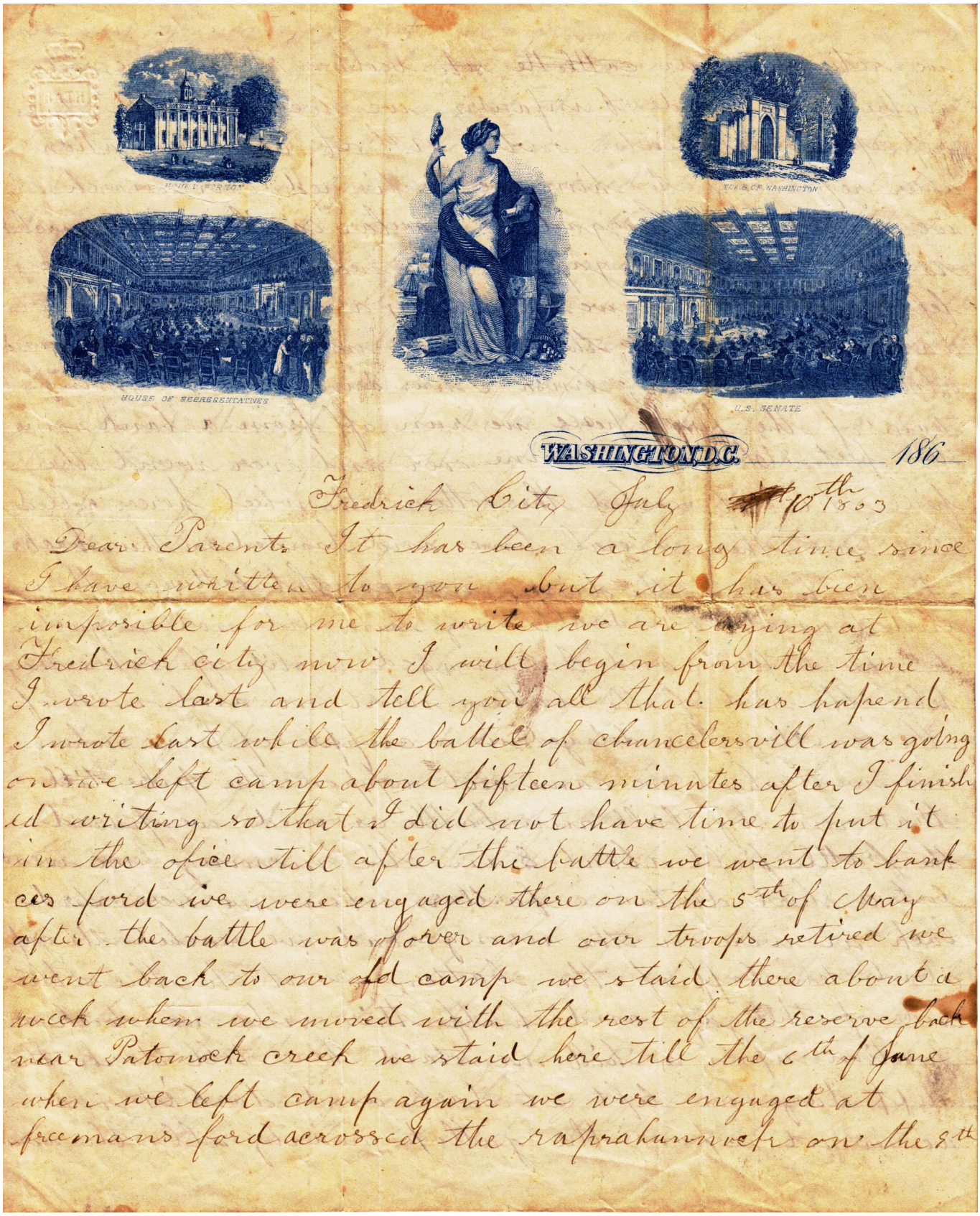
it has been storming for several days past but to day it is warm and pleasent the country begins to look a little better I wish you would send me a dozen postage stamps in your nept letter pleas send me a small package by mail containing a kankerchef colerd sone black linen thread 2 skeins of red thread silk a few needles of various sises a bot of anguintum which I will be very valuable this summer when we are on the march we are not always able to wash our clothe every week they are apt to get lousy direct your letter nept time Horse Battery H 1st W S Artilery Artilery Reserve Falmouth Va Via of Washington D C I dont think of much more to write I received your letter tuesday I am glad that my money

May 1, 1863 (1863.05.01) Page 3, Falmouth, VA



went home safe I am glad to
hear that Ada is doing well
I hope she will stay and like
I think her dress pretty send
my love to her I dont think
of much more to write my love
to you all good bye for this
time Henry W Brown

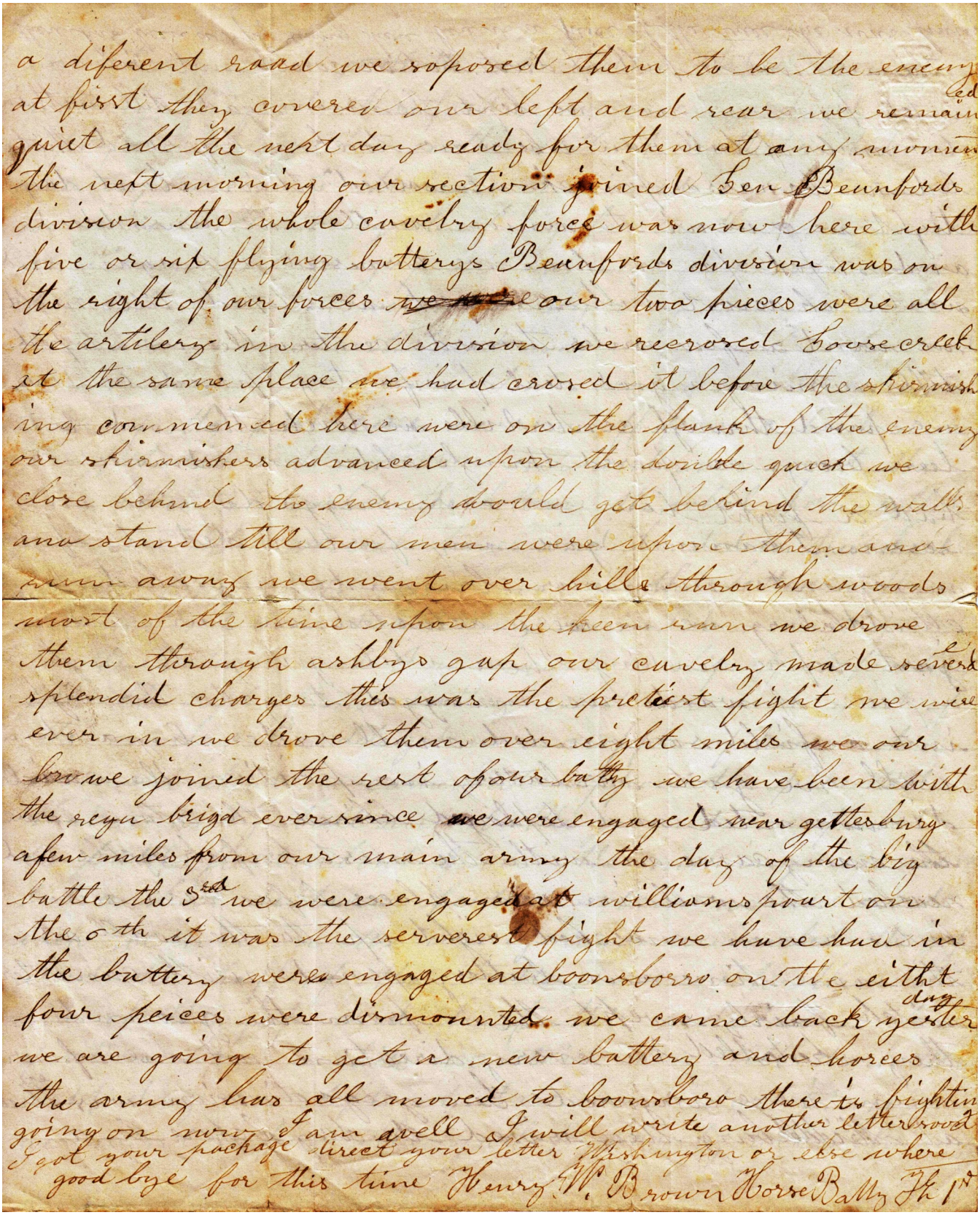
May 1, 1863 (1863.05.01) Page 4, Falmouth, VA



Fredrick City July ~~10~~ 10th 1863

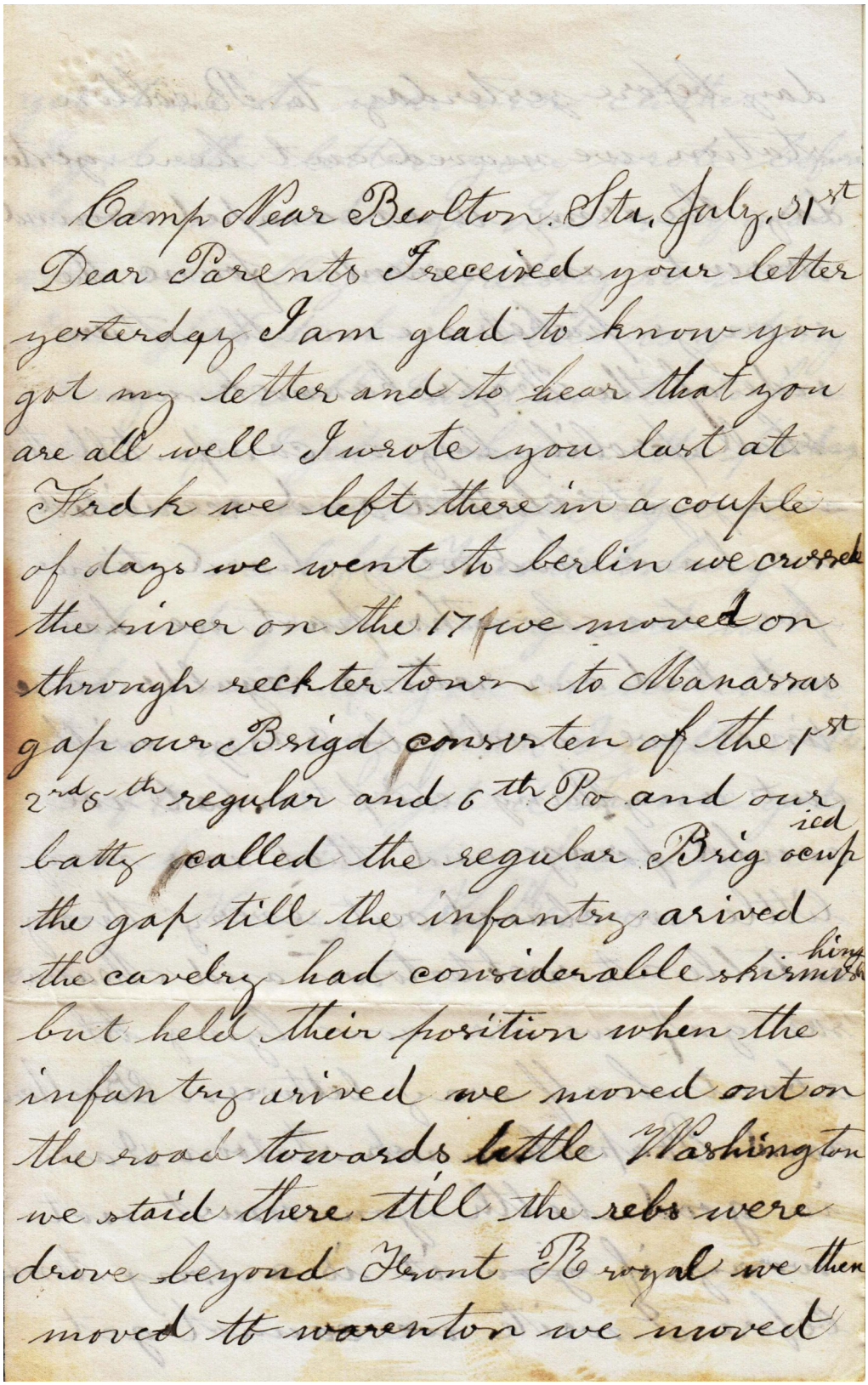
Dear Parents It has been a long time since I have written to you but it has been impossible for me to write we are laying at Fredrick city now I will begin from the time I wrote last and tell you all that has hapend I wrote last while the battel of chancelersvill was going on we left camp about fifteen minutes after I finished writing so that I did not have time to put it in the ofice till after the battle we went to bankers ford we were engaged there on the 5th of May after the battle was over and our troops retired we went back to our old camp we staid there about a week when we moved with the rest of the reserve back near Patomack creek we staid here till the 6th of June when we left camp again we were engaged at freemans ford acrossed the rapahannock on the 8th

July 10, 1863 (1863.07.10) Page 1, Fredrick City



a diferent road we soposed them to be the enemy at first they covered our left and rear we remained quiet all the next day ready for them at any moment the next morning our section joined Gen Beunfords division the whole cavelry force was now here with five or six flying batterys Beunfords division was on the right of our forces ~~we were~~ our two pieces were all the artilery in the division we recrosed Goose creek at the same place we had crosed it before the skirmishing commenced here were on the flank of the enemy our skirmishers advanced upon the double quick we close behind the enemy dvould get behind the walls and stand till our men were upon them and away away we went over hills through woods most of the time upon the keen run we drove them through ashbys gap our cavelry made several splendid charges this was the prettiest fight we were ever in we drove them over eight miles we our brow we joined the rest of our batty we have been with the reyu brigd ever since we were engaged near gettesburg a few miles from our main army the day of the big battle the 3rd we were engaged at williams port on the 6th it was the severest fight we have had in the battery were engaged at boonsborro on the eitht four peices were dismounted we came back yesterday we are going to get a new battery and horses the army has all moved to boonsboro there is fighting going on now I am well I will write another letter soon I got your package direct your letter Washington or else where good bye for this time Henry W. Brown Horse Batty Ft 1st

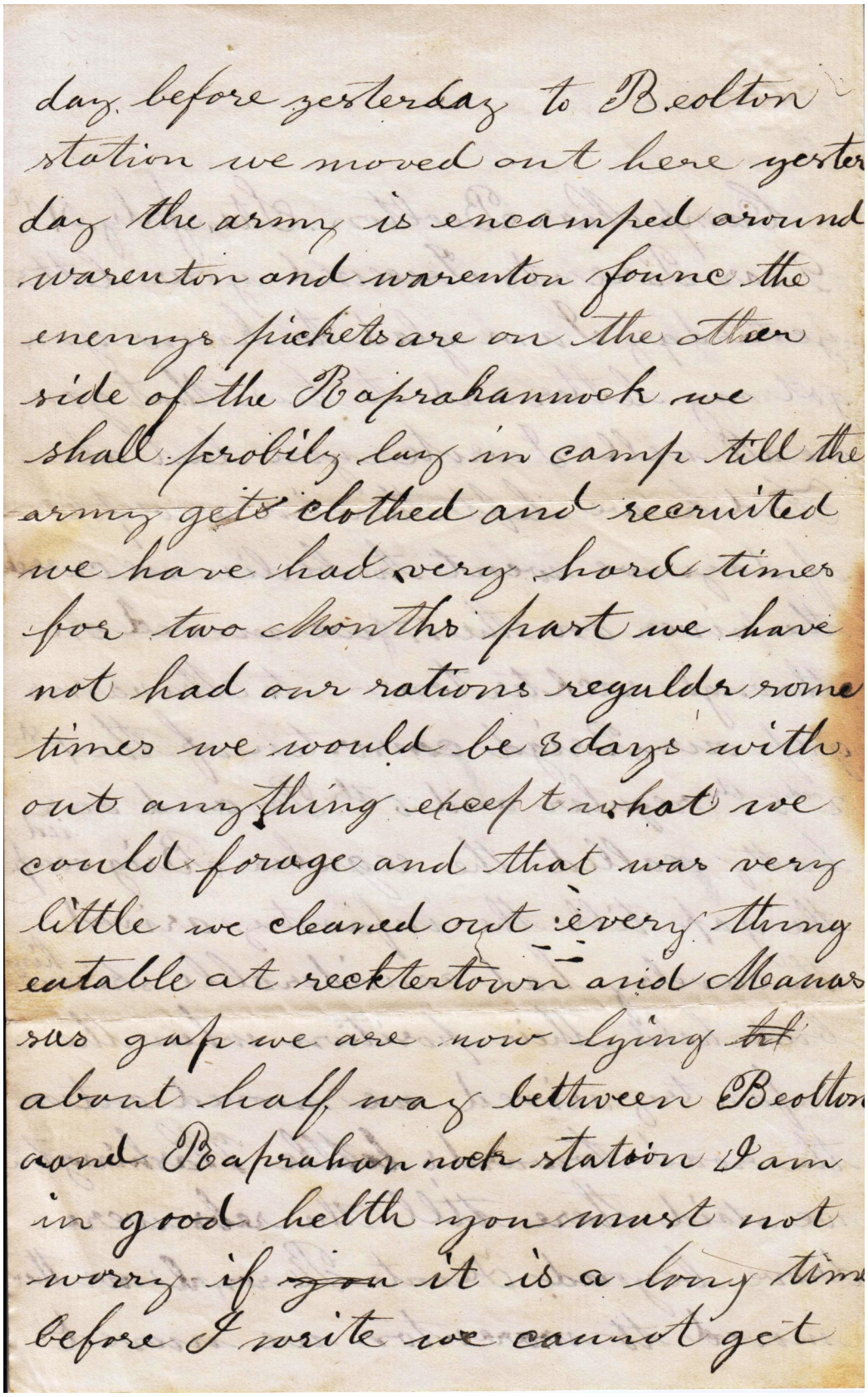
July 10, 1863 (1863.07.10) Page 4, Fredrick City



Camp Near Bealton Sta. July 31st

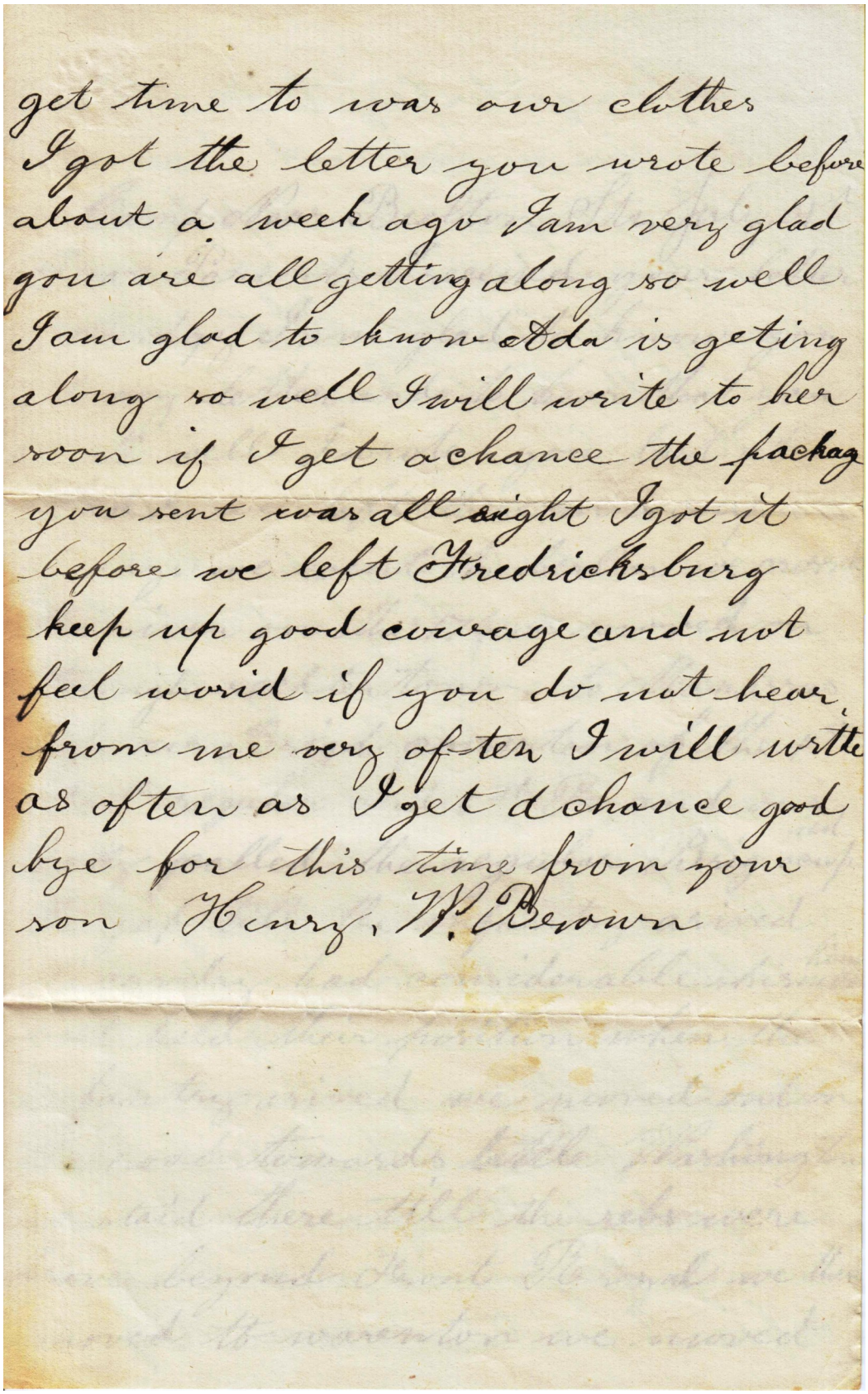
Dear Parents I received your letter yesterday I am glad to know you got my letter and to hear that you are all well I wrote you last at Frdk we left there in a couple of days we went to berlin we crossed the river on the 17 we moved on through reckertown to Manassas gap our Brigd consisten of the 1st 2nd 5th regular and 6th Pa and our batty called the regular Brig occupied the gap till the infantry arived the cavelry had considerable skirmishing but held their position when the infantry arived we moved out on the road towards Little Washington we staid there till the rebs were drove beyond Front Royal we then moved to waerton we moved

July 31, 1863 (1863.07.31) Page 1, Camp Near Bealeton



day before yesterday to Beolton
station we moved out here yester
day the army is encamped around
warenton and warenton founc the
enemys pickets are on the other
side of the Rapahannock we
shall probibly lay in camp till the
army gets clothed and recruited
we have had very hard times
for two Months past we have
not had our rations regulde some
times we would be 3 days with
out anything except what we
could forage and that was very
little we cleaned out every thing
eatable at recktertown and Mana
sas gap we are now lying ~~at~~
about half way between Beolton
and Rapahannock station I am
in good helth you must not
worry if ~~you~~ it is a long time
before I write we cannot get

July 31, 1863 (1863.07.31) Page 2, Camp Near Bealeton Station

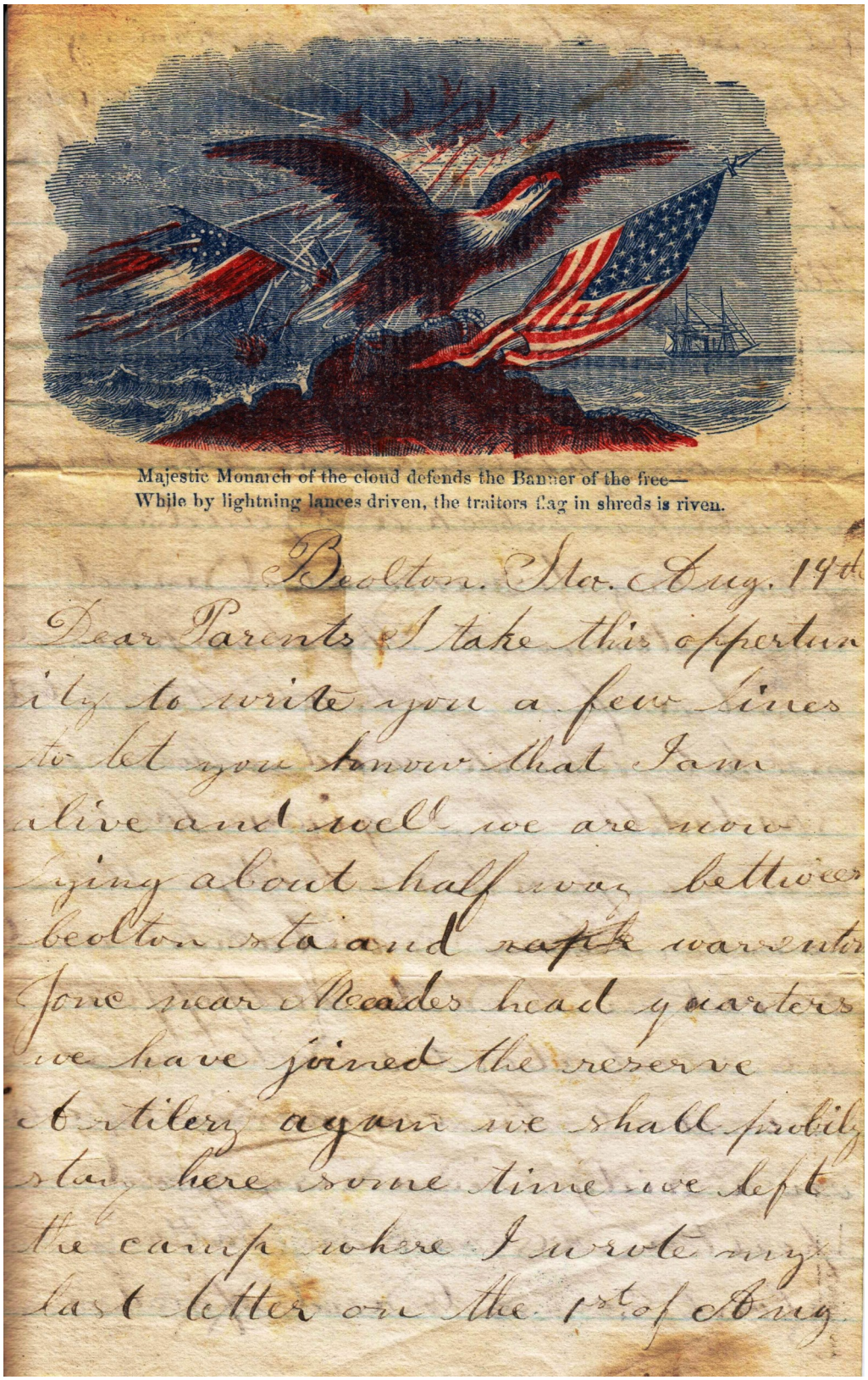


get time to wash our clothes
I got the letter you wrote before
about a week ago I am very glad
you are all getting along so well
I am glad to know Ada is geting
along so well I will write to her
soon if I get a chance the packag
you sent was all right I got it
before we left Fredricksburg
keep up good courage and not
feel world if you do not hear
from me very often I will write
as often as I get a chance good
bye for this time from your
son Henry. W. Brown

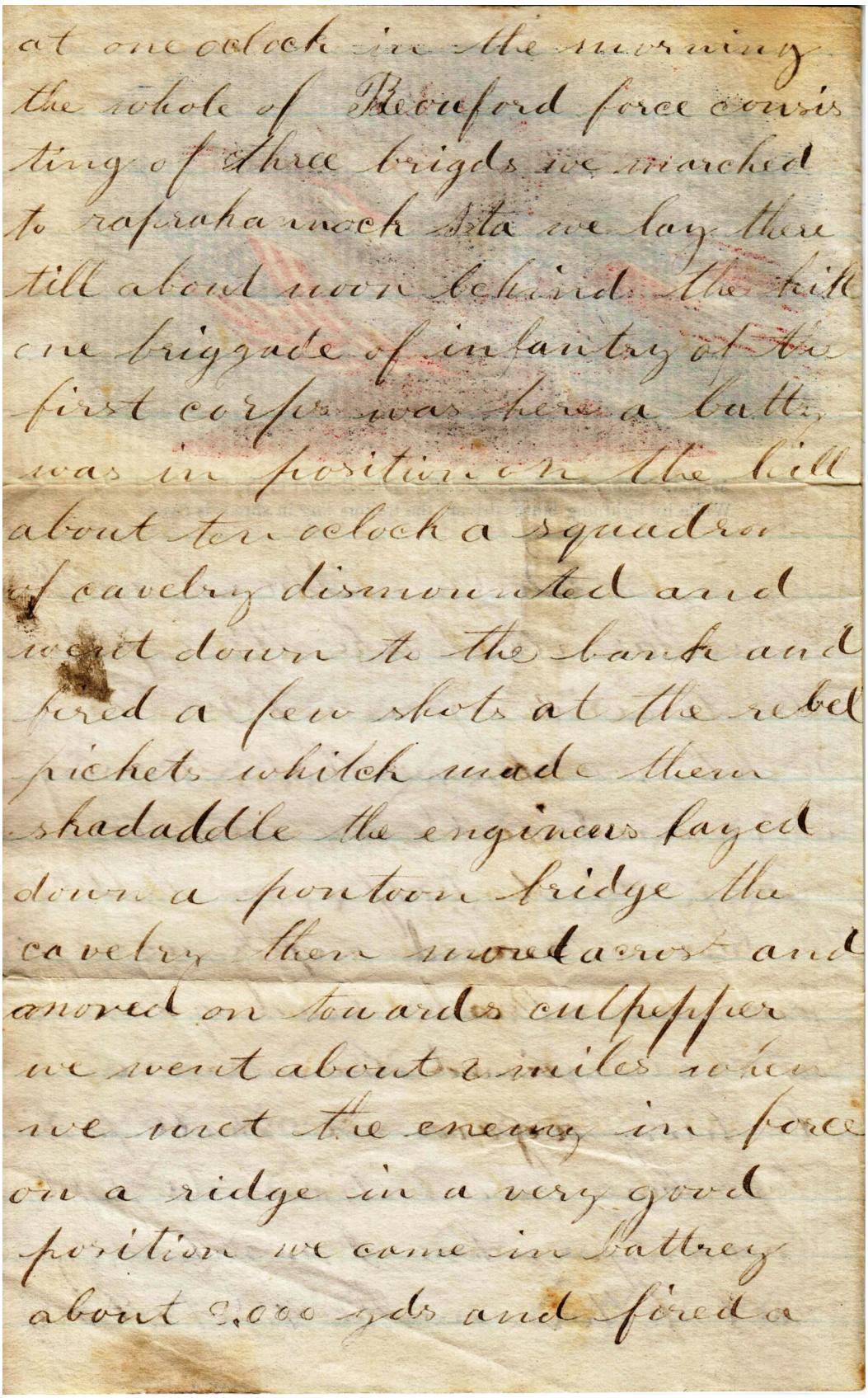
July 31, 1863 (1863.07.31) Page 3, Camp Near Bealeton Station



July 31, 1863 (1863.07.31) Envelope, Camp Near Bealeton

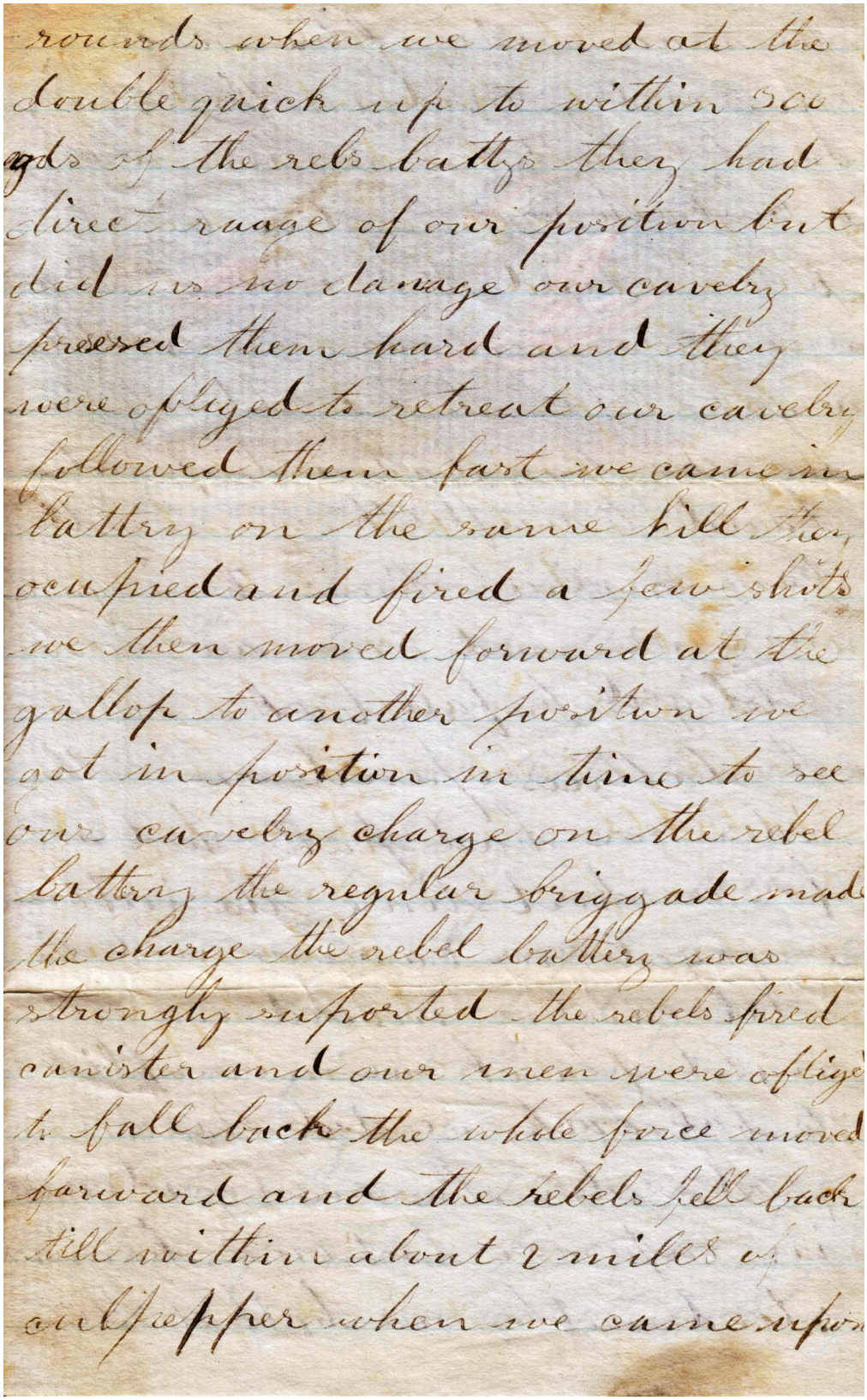


August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 1, Camp Bealeton Station



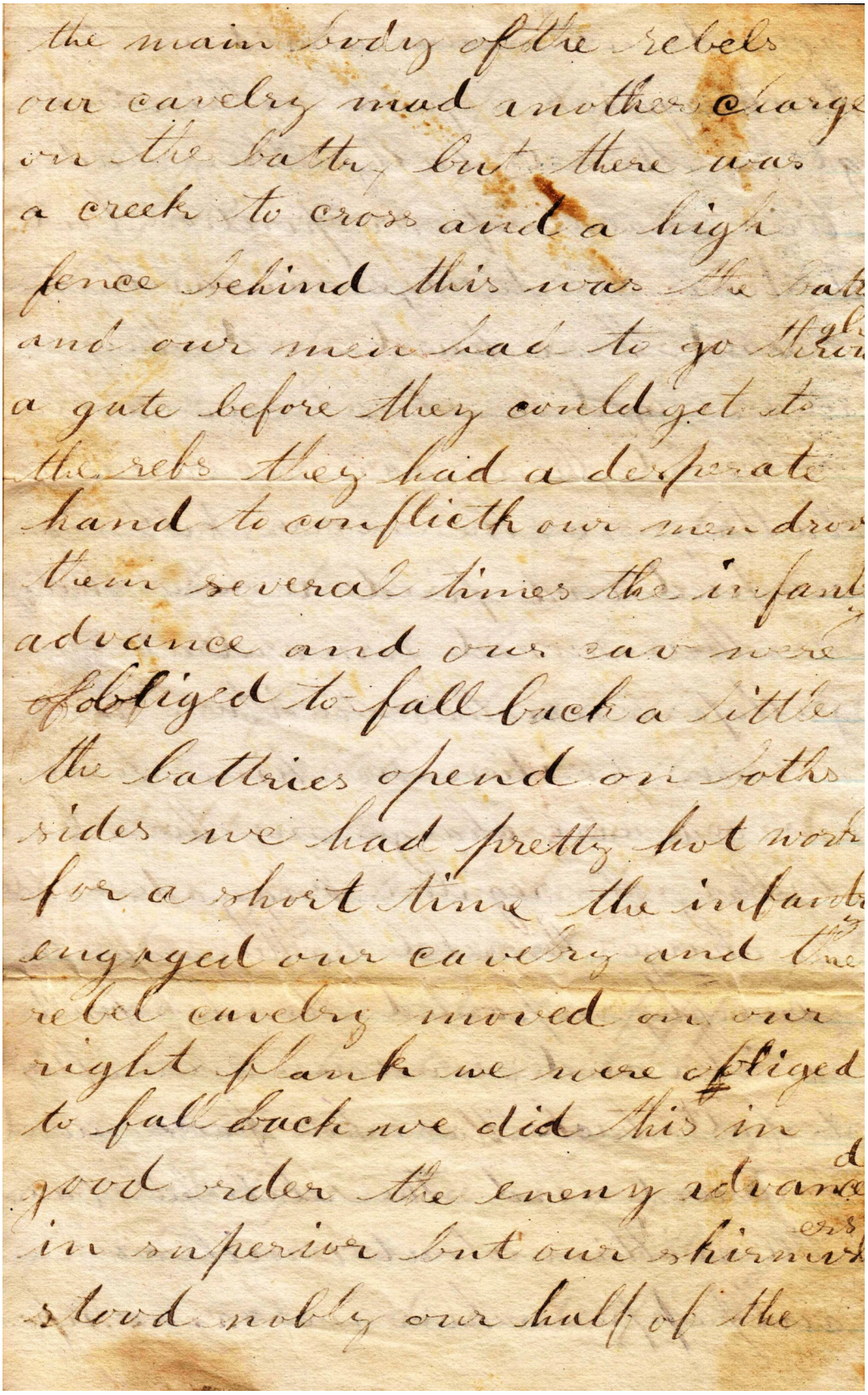
at one oclock in the morning the whole of Beauford force consisting of three brigds we marched to rapahannock Sta we lay there till about noon behind the hill one brigade of infantry of the first corps was there a batt was in position on the hill about ten oclock a squadron of cavelry dismounted and went down to the bank and fired a few shots at the rebel pickets which made them shadaddle the enginers layed down a pontoon bridge the cavelry then moved across and moved on towards culpepper we went about 2 miles when we met the enemy in force on a ridge in a very good position we come in battrey about 2,000 yds and fired a

August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 2, Camp Near Bealeton Station



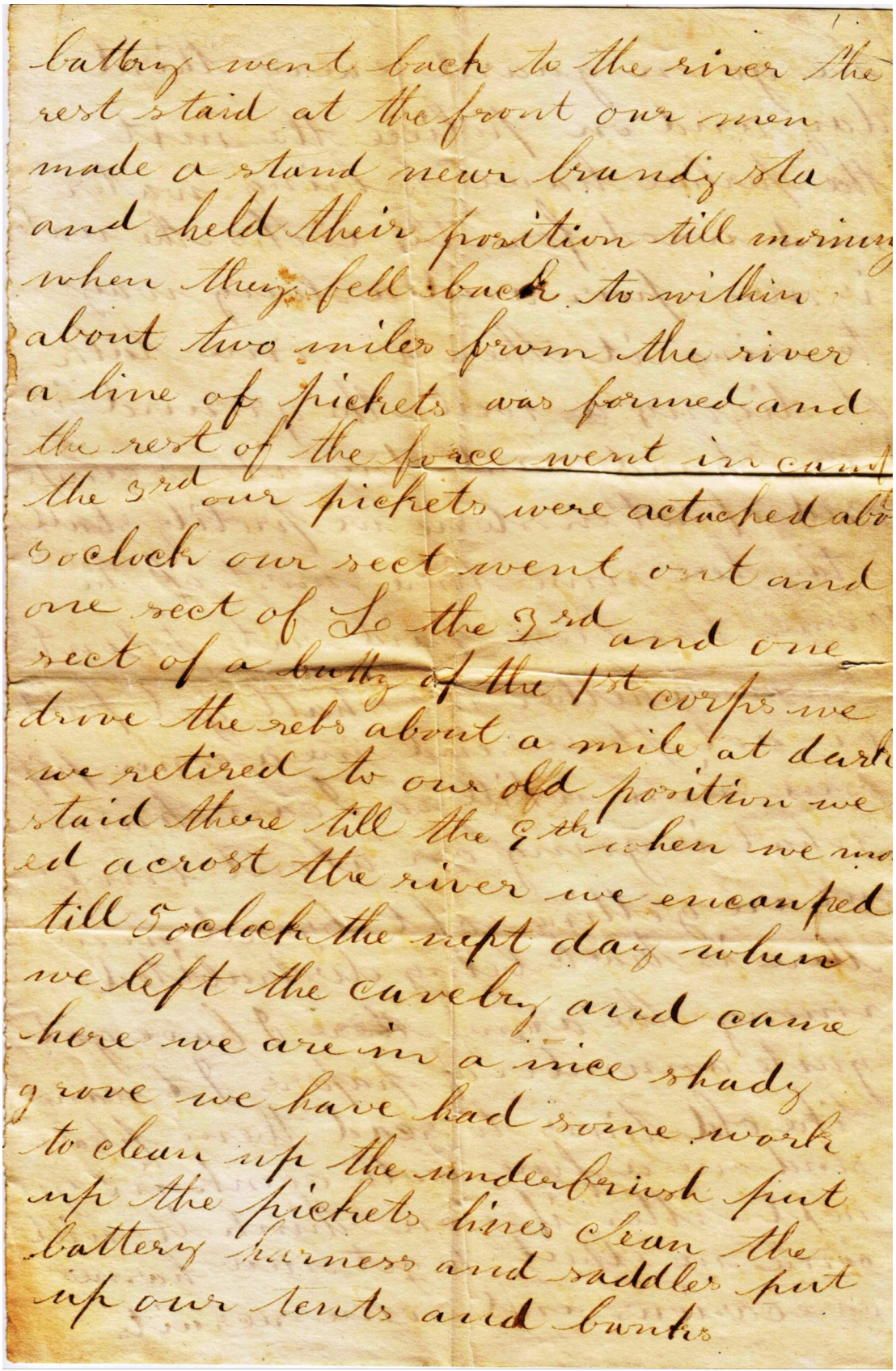
rounds when we moved at the
double quick up to within 300
yds of the rebs battys they had
direct range of our position but
did us no damage our cavelry
pressed them hard and they
were pliged to retreat our cavelry
followed them fast we came in
battry on the same hill they
occupied and fired a few shots
we then moved forward at the
gallop to another positon we
got in position in time to see
our cavelry charge on the rebel
battery the regular brigade made
the charge the rebel battery was
strongly supported the rebels fired
canister and our men were pliged
to fall back the whole force moved
forward and the rebels fell back
till within about 2 miles of
Culpepper when we came upon

August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 3, Camp Near Bealeton Station



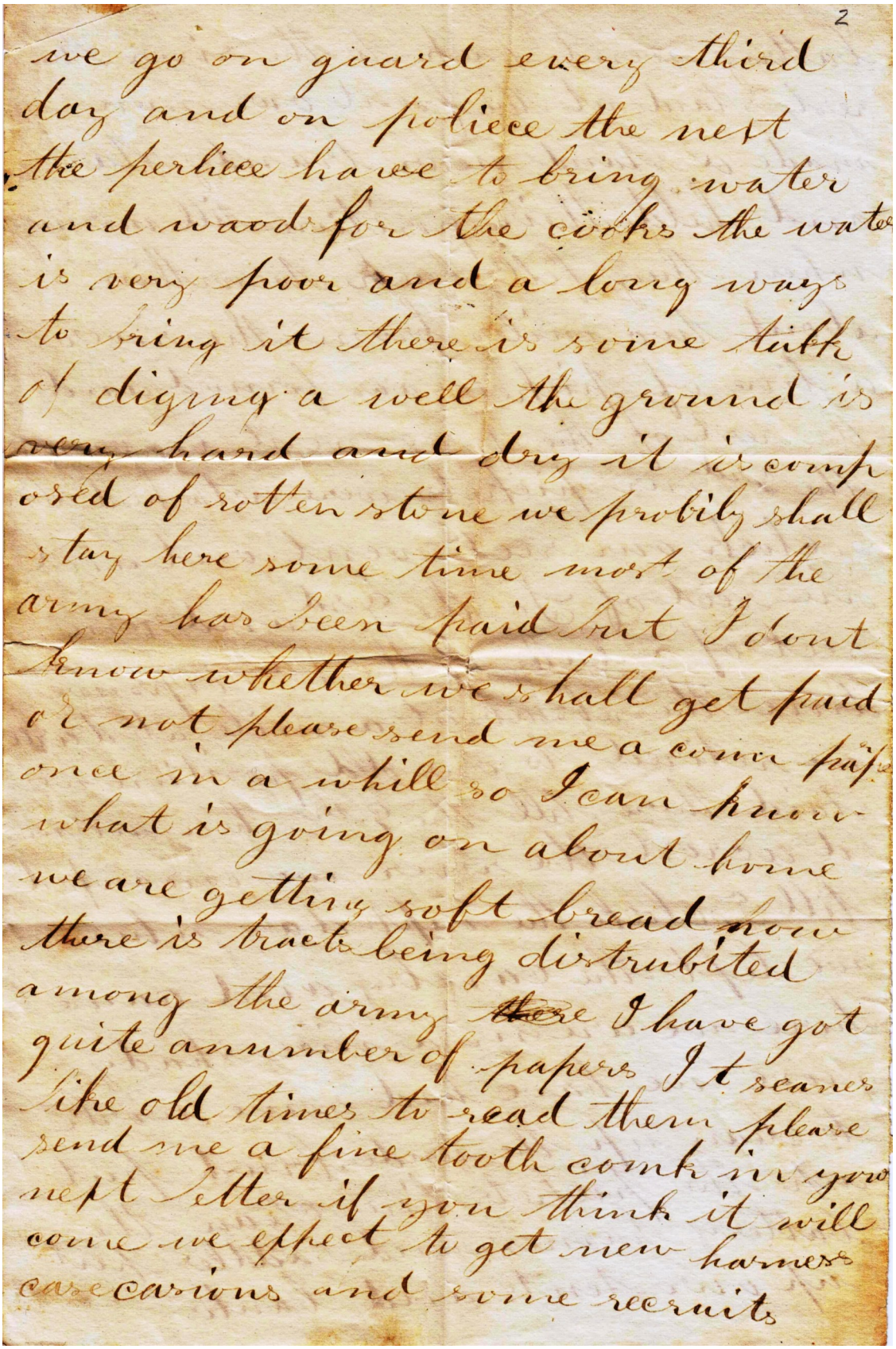
the main body of the rebels
our cavalry mad another charge
on the battry but there was
a creek to cross and a high
fence behind this was the batt
and our men had to go thro
a gate before they could get to
the rebs they had a desperate
hand to conflict our men drov
them several times the infant
advance and our cav were
obliged to fall back a little
the battries opend on both
sides we had pretty hot work
for a short time the infantry
engaged our cavalry and the
rebel cavalry moved on our
right flank we were obliged
to fall back we did this in
good order the enemy advanced
in superior but our skirmish
stood nobly our half of the

August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 4, Camp Near Bealeton Station



battery went back to the river the
rest staid at the front our men
made a stand near brandy sta
and held their position till morning
when they fell back to within
about two miles from the river
a line of pickets was formed and
the rest of the force went in camp
the 3rd our pickets were attacked abo
3 o'clock our rect went out and
one rect of Le the 3rd and one
rect of a battery of the 1st corps we
drove the rebs about a mile at dark
we retired to our old position we
staid there till the 7th when we mo
ed across the river we encamped
till 5 o'clock the nept day when
we left the cavalry and came
here we are in a nice shady
grove we have had some work
to clean up the underbrush put
up the pickets lines clean the
battery harness and saddles put
up our tents and bunks

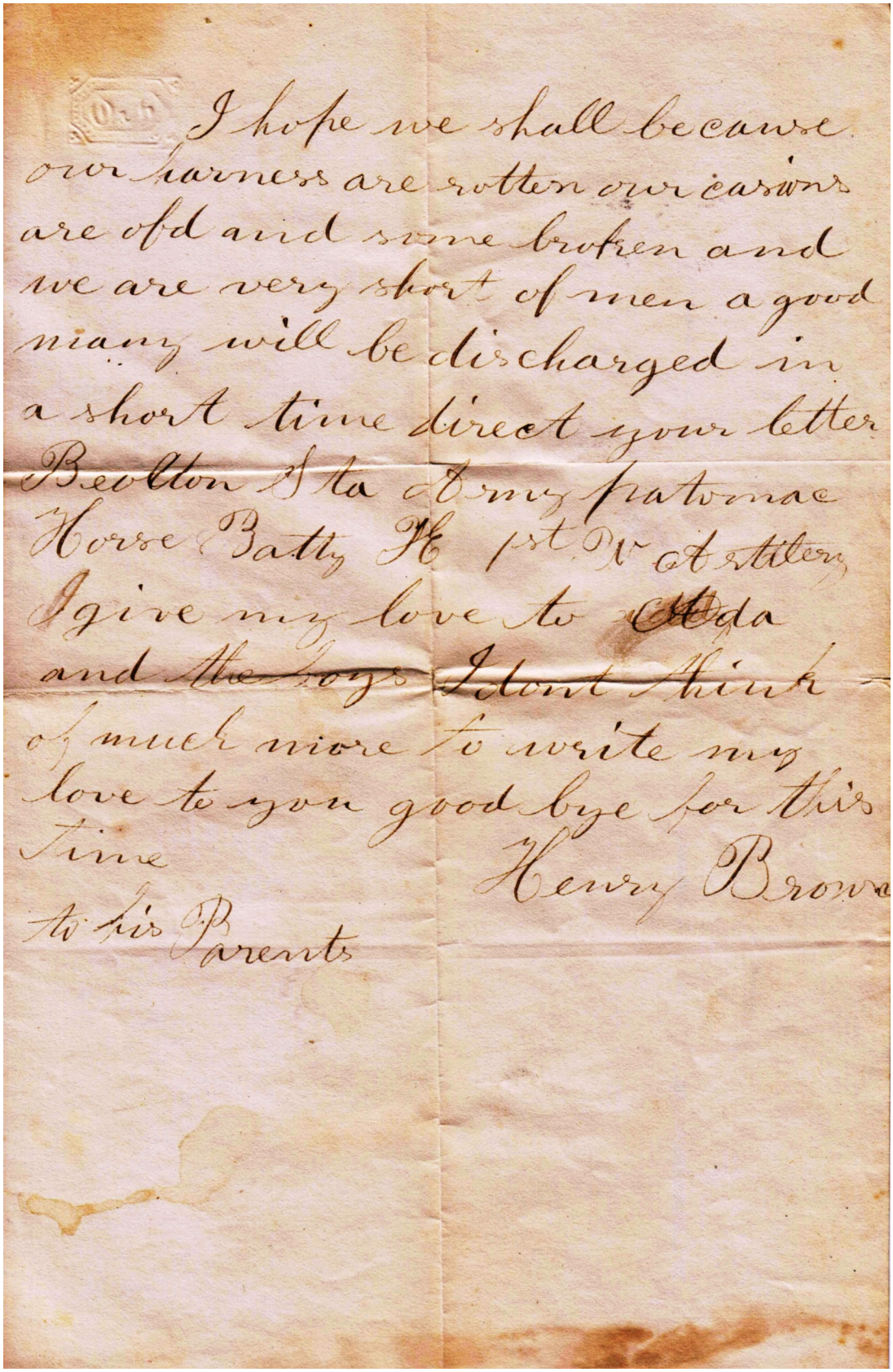
August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 5, Camp Near Bealeton Station



2

we go on guard every third
day and on poliece the next
the perliece have to bring water
and wood for the cooks the wate
is very poor and a long ways
to bring it there is some talk
of digging a well the ground is
very hard and dry it is comp
osed of rotten stone we probily shall
stay here some time most of the
army has been paid but I dont
know whether we shall get paid
or not please send me a cone paj
once in a while so I can know
what is going on about home
we are getting soft bread now
there is tracks being distrubited
among the army ~~the~~ I have got
quite annumber of papers I t seames
like old times to read them pleare
send me a fine tooth comb in you
nept letter if you think it will
come we effect to get new harness
case casions and some recruits

August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 6, Camp Near Bealeton Station

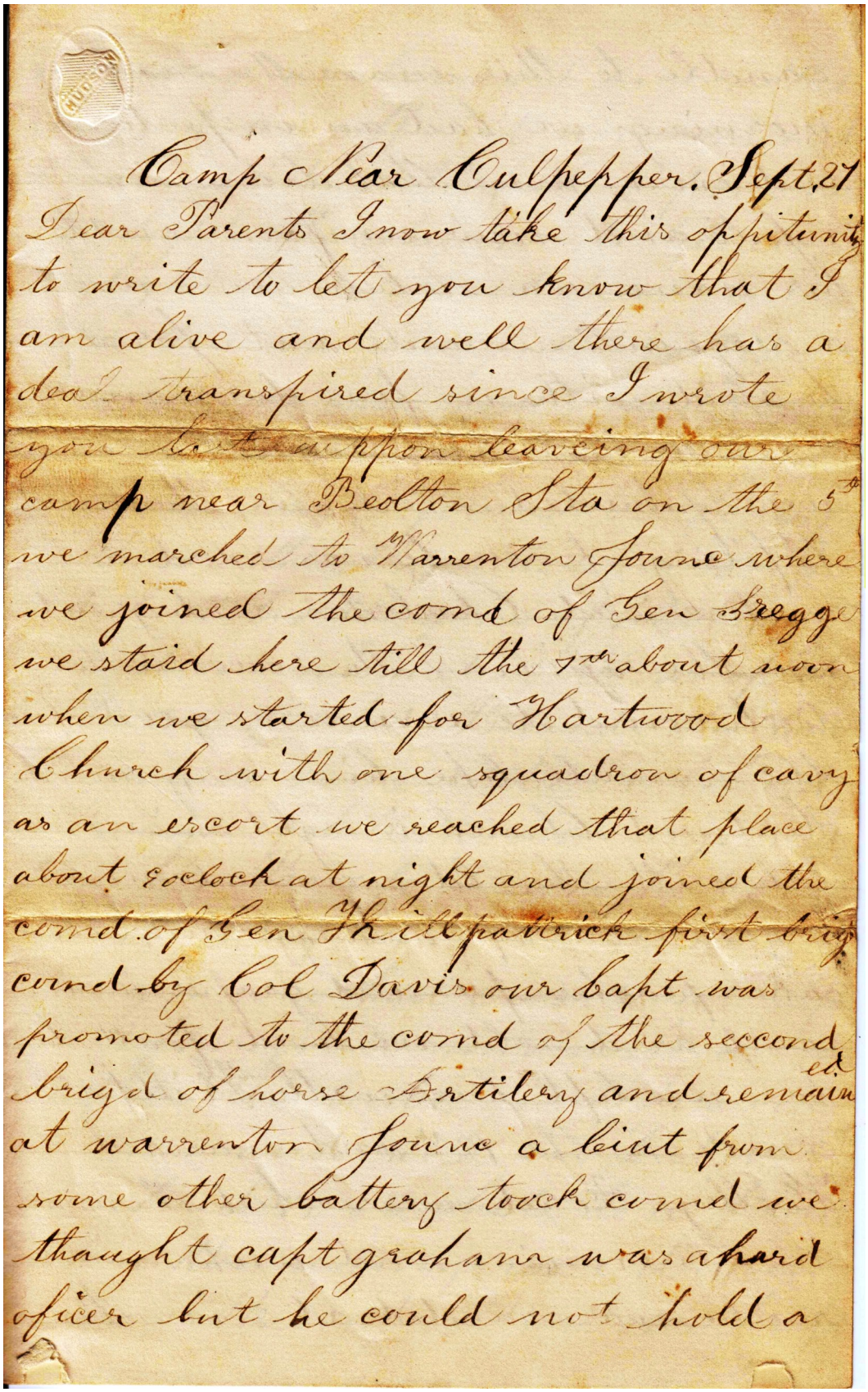


I hope we shall be cause
our harness are rotten our carsons
are old and some broken and
we are very short of men a good
many will be discharged in
a short time direct your letter
Bealton Sta Army Potomac
Horse Batty K 1st N. Artillery
I give my love to Ada
and ~~the boys~~ I dont think
of much more to write my
love to you good bye for this
time
Henry Brown
to his Parents

August 14, 1863 (1863.08.14) Page 7, Camp Near Bealeton Station



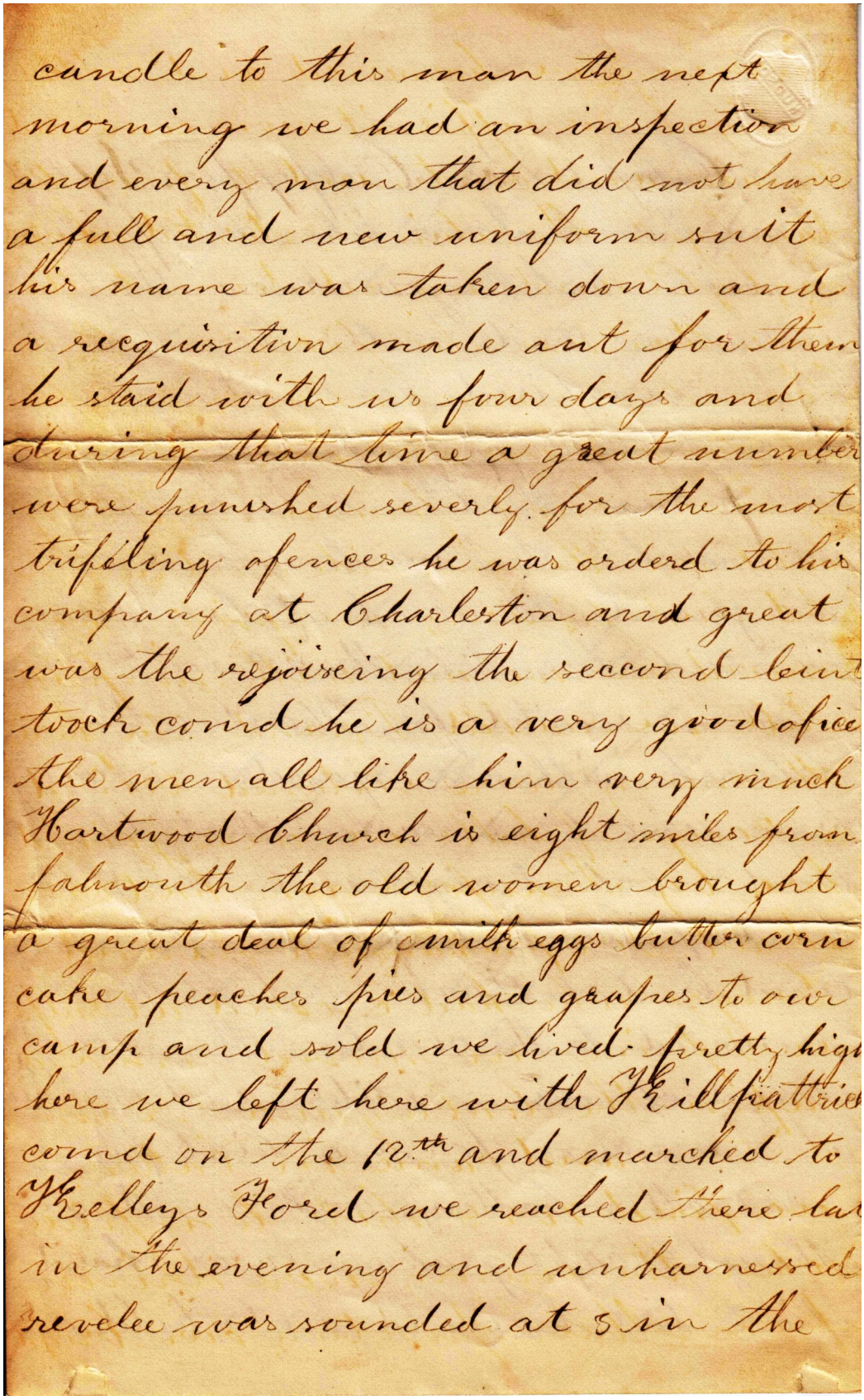
1863.08.14 Envelope, Camp Near Bealeton Station



Camp Near Culpepper. Sept. 27

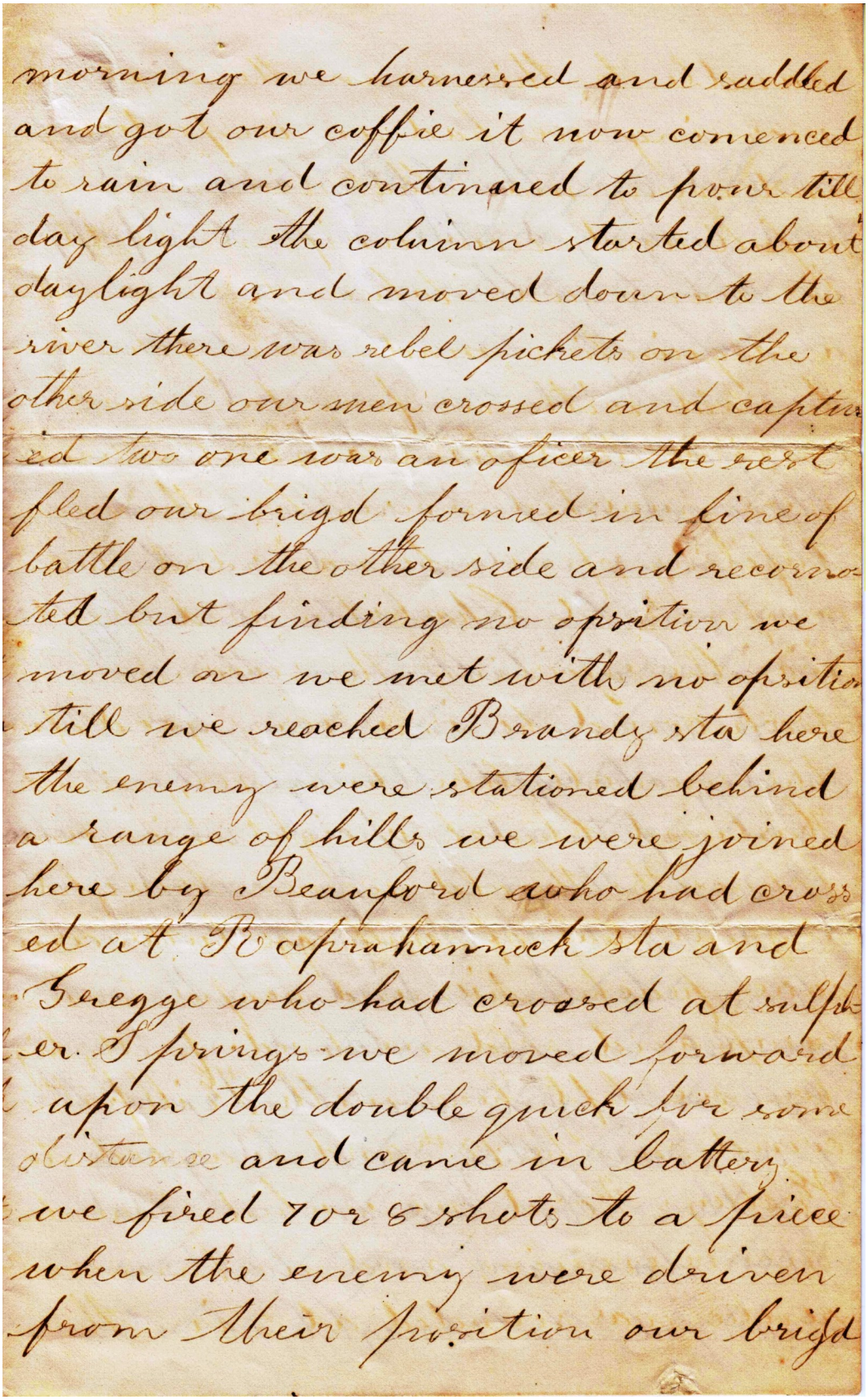
Dear Parents I now take this opiturnity to write to let you know that I am alive and well there has a deal transpired since I wrote you last upon leaveing our camp near Bealton Sta on the 5th we marched to Warrenton Jounc where we joined the comd of Gen Bragg we staid here till the 7th about noon when we started for Hartwood Church with one squadron of cavy as an escort we reached that place about 8 oclock at night and joined the comd of Gen Kilpatrick first brig comd by Col Davis our Capt was promoted to the comd of the seccond brigd of horse Artilery and remained at warrenton Jounc a limt from some other battery took comd we thaught capt grahana was a hard officer but he could not hold a

September 27, (1863.09.27) Page 1, Camp Near Culpeper



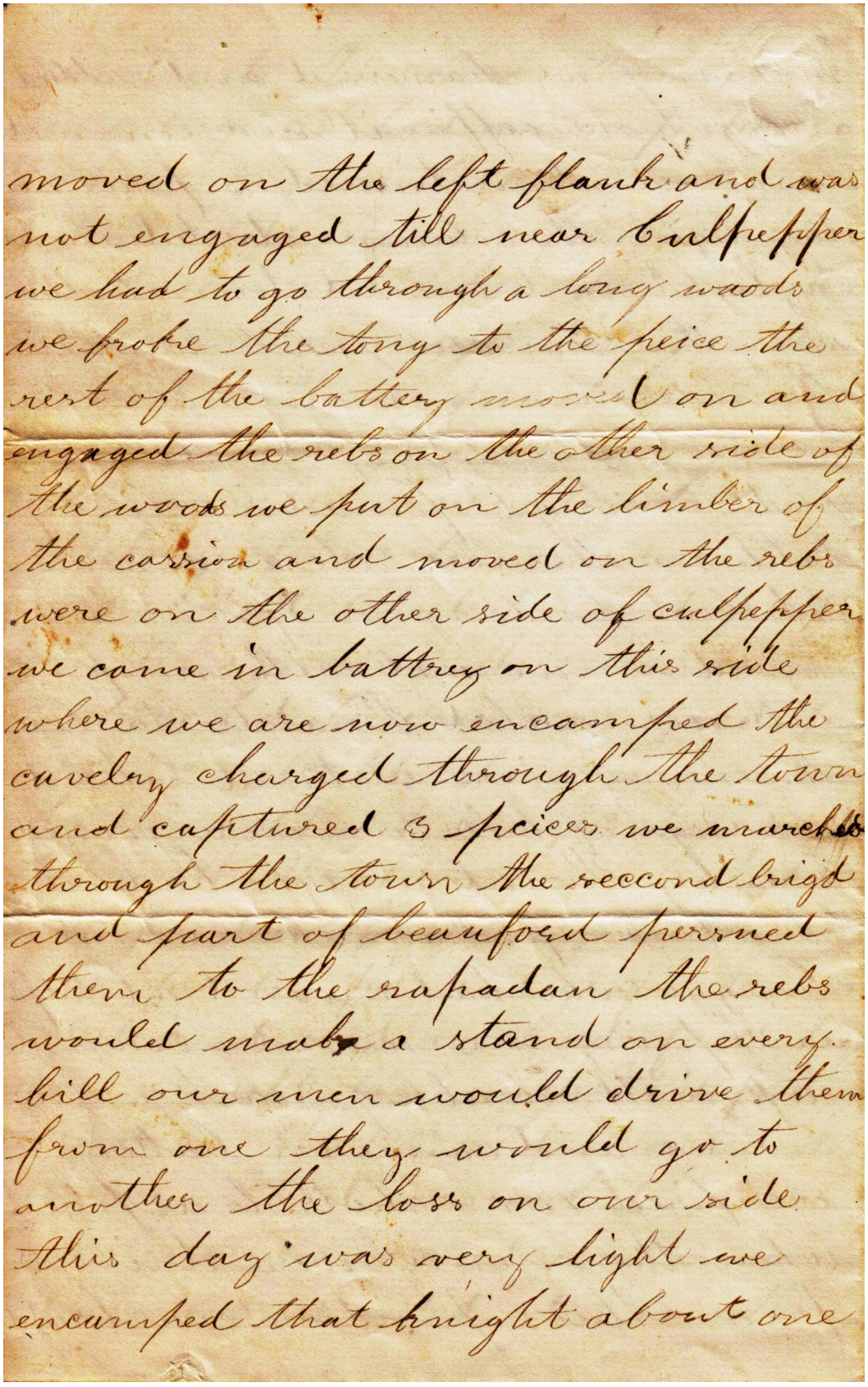
candle to this man the nept
morning we had an inspection
and every man that did not have
a full and new uniform suit
his name was taken down and
a requisition made ant for them
he staid with us four days and
during that time a great number
were punished severly for the most
trifeling offences he was orderd to his
company at Charleston and great
was the rejoiseing the second time
took comd he is a very good office
the men all like him very much
Hartwood church is eight miles from
falmouth the old women brought
a great deal of smith eggs butter corn
cake peaches pies and grapes to our
camp and sold we lived pretty high
here we left here with Gen Gillfeathers
comd on the 12th and marched to
Kelleys Ford we reached there late
in the evening and unharnessed
revelee was sounded at 9 in the

September 27, 1863 (1863.09.27) Page 2, Camp Near Culpeper



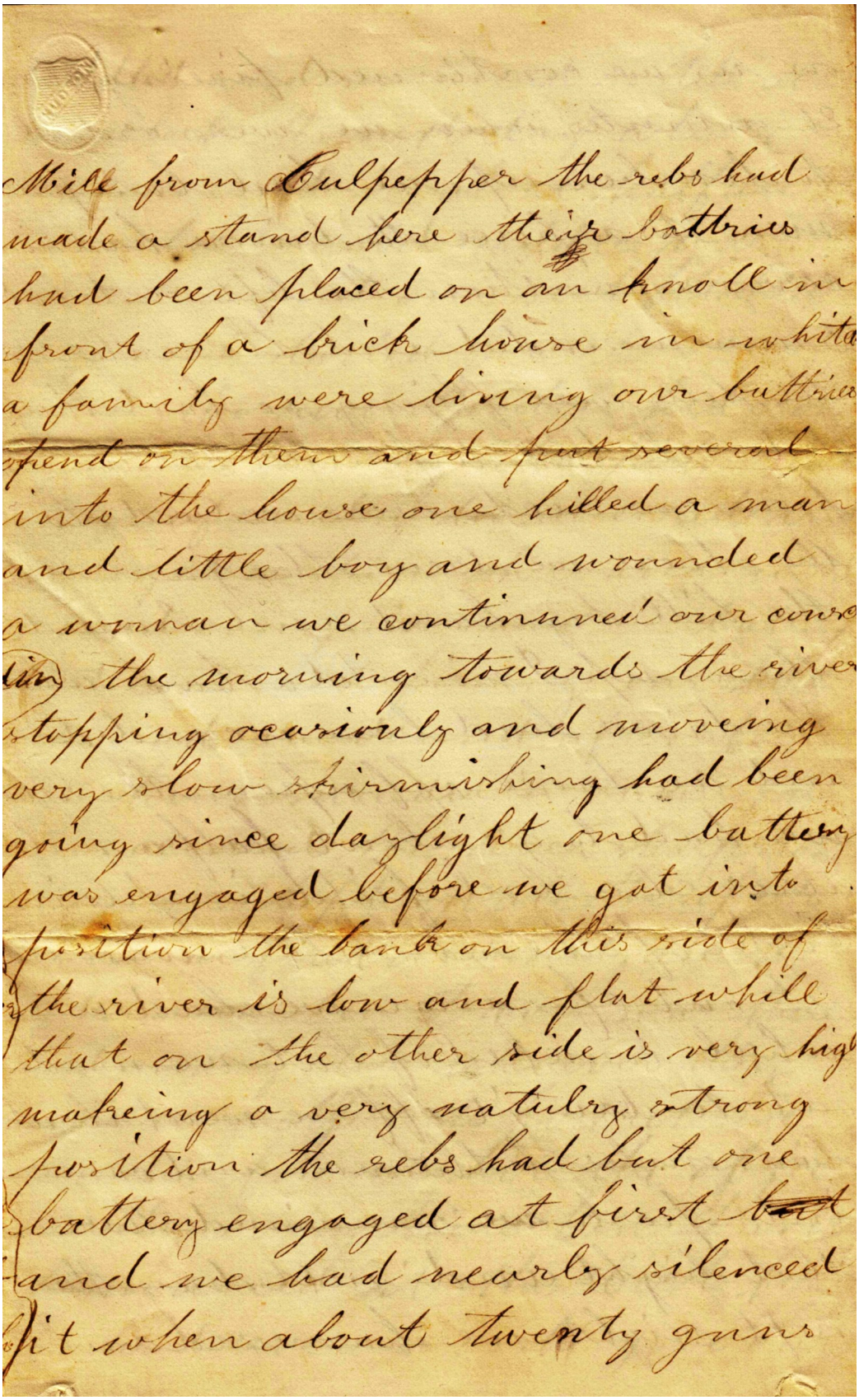
morning we harnessed and saddled and got our coffie it now comenced to rain and continued to powr till day light the column started about daylight and moved down to the river there was rebel pickets on the other side our men crossed and captured two one was an oficer the rest fled our brigd formed in line of battle on the other side and recconoited but finding no opsition we moved on we met with no opsition till we reached Brandy sta here the enemy were stationed behind a range of hills we were joined here by Beauford who had crossed at Rapahannock sta and Gregge who had crossed at sulpher Springs we moved forward upon the double quick for some distance and came in battery we fired 7 or 8 shots to a piece when the enemy were driven from their position our brigd

September 9, 1863 (1863.09.27) Page 3, Camp Near Culpeper

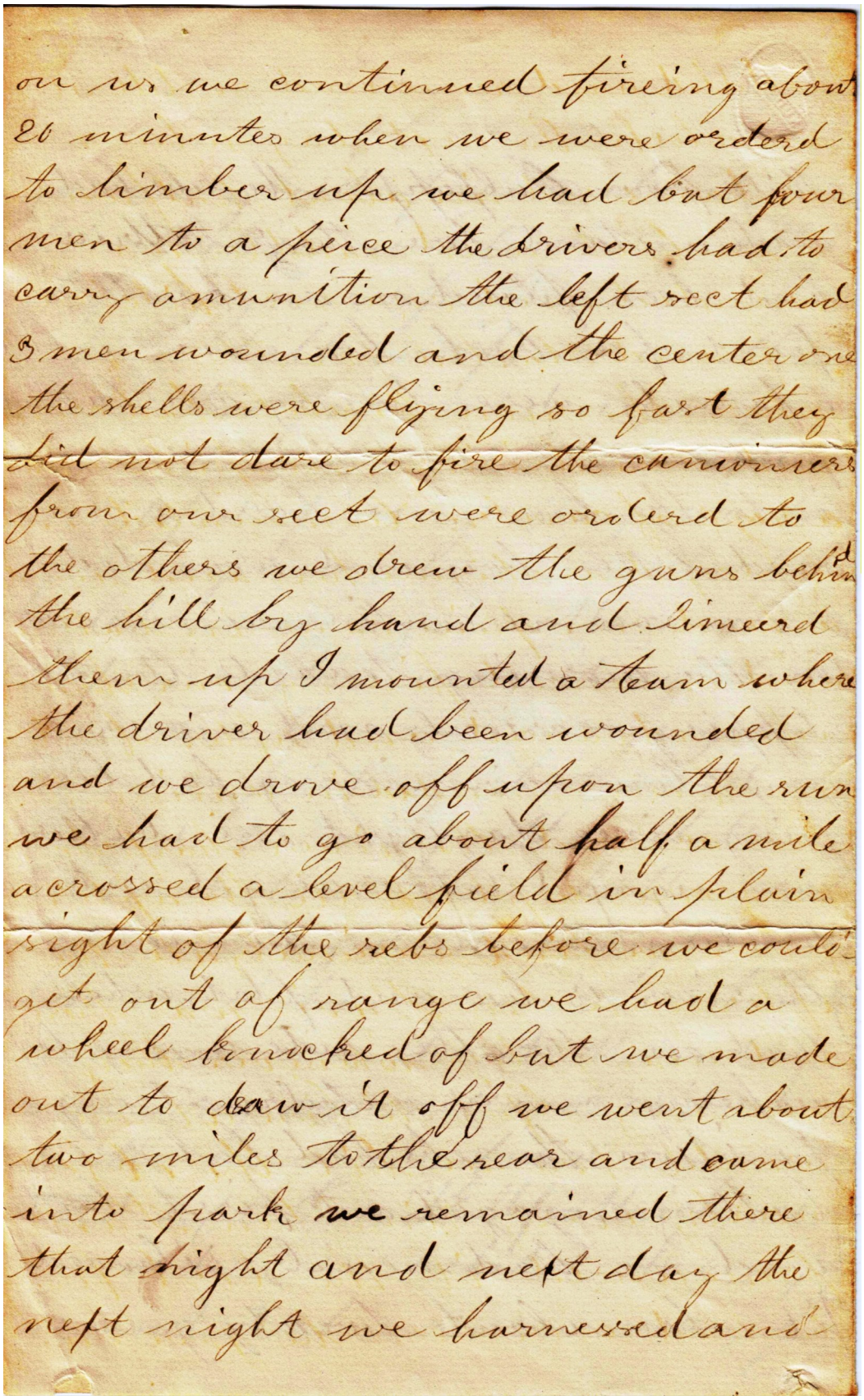


moved on the left flank and was
not engaged till near Culpepper
we had to go through a long woods
we probe the tony to the peice the
rest of the battery moved on and
engaged the rebs on the other side of
the woods we put on the limber of
the carrion and moved on the rebs
were on the other side of culpepper
we come in battrey on this side
where we are now encamped the
cavelry charged through the town
and captured 3 peices we marched
through the town the seccond brigd
and part of beauford pursued
them to the rapadan the rebs
would make a stand on every
hill our men would drive them
from one they would go to
another the loss on our side
this day was very light we
encamped that knight about one

September 27, 1863 (1863.09.27) Page 4, Camp Near Culpeper

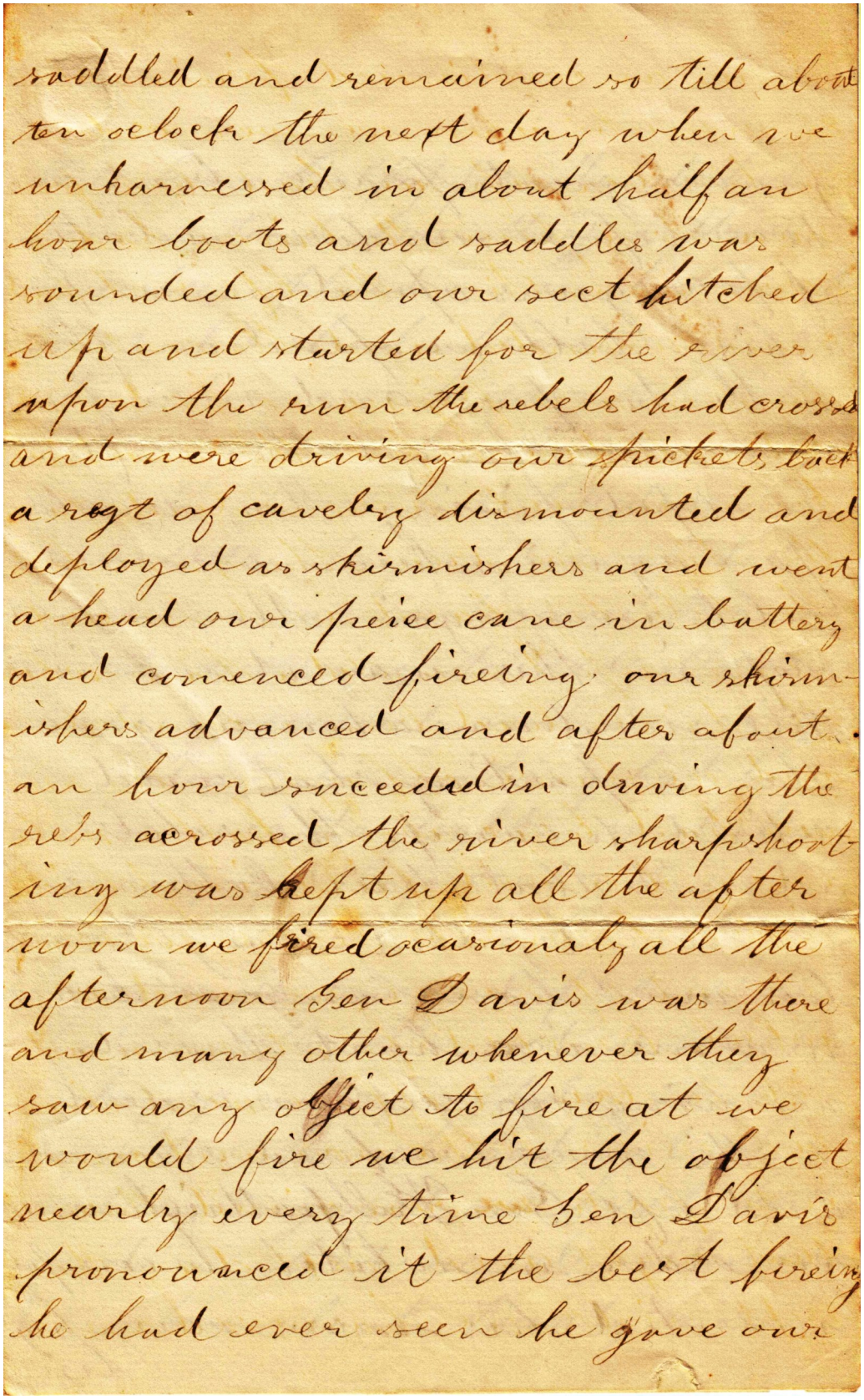


Mile from Culpepper the rebs had
made a stand here their battries
had been placed on an knoll in
front of a brick house in which
a family were living our battries
opend on them and put several
into the house one killed a man
and little boy and wounded
a woman we continued our cours
the morning towards the river
stopping occasionly and moveing
very slow skirmishing had been
going since daylight one battery
was engaged before we got into
position the bank on this side of
the river is low and flat while
that on the other side is very high
makeing a very naturly strong
position the rebs had but one
battery engaged at first but
and we had nearly silenced
it when about twenty guns



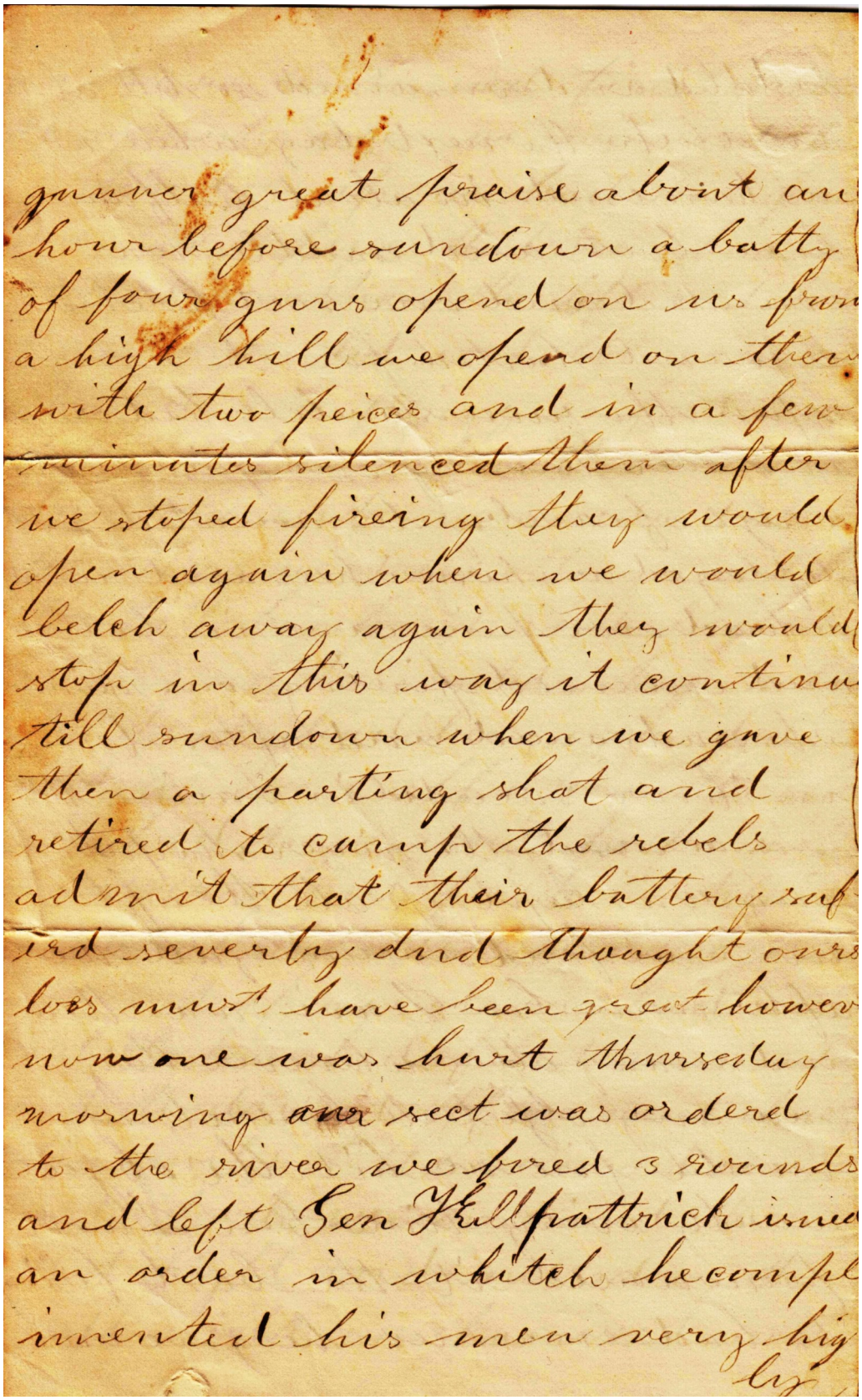
on us we continued fireing about
20 minutes when we were ordered
to limber up we had but four
men to a piece the drivers had to
carry ammunition the left sect had
3 men wounded and the center one
the shells were flying so fast they
did not dare to fire the canoniers
from our sect were ordered to
the others we drew the guns behind
the hill by hand and limbered
them up I mounted a team where
the driver had been wounded
and we drove off upon the run
we had to go about half a mile
a crossed a level field in plain
sight of the rebs before we could
get out of range we had a
wheel knocked of but we made
out to draw it off we went about
two miles to the rear and came
into park we remained there
that night and next day the
next night we harnessed and

September 27, 1863 (1863.09.27) Page 6, Camp Near Culpeper



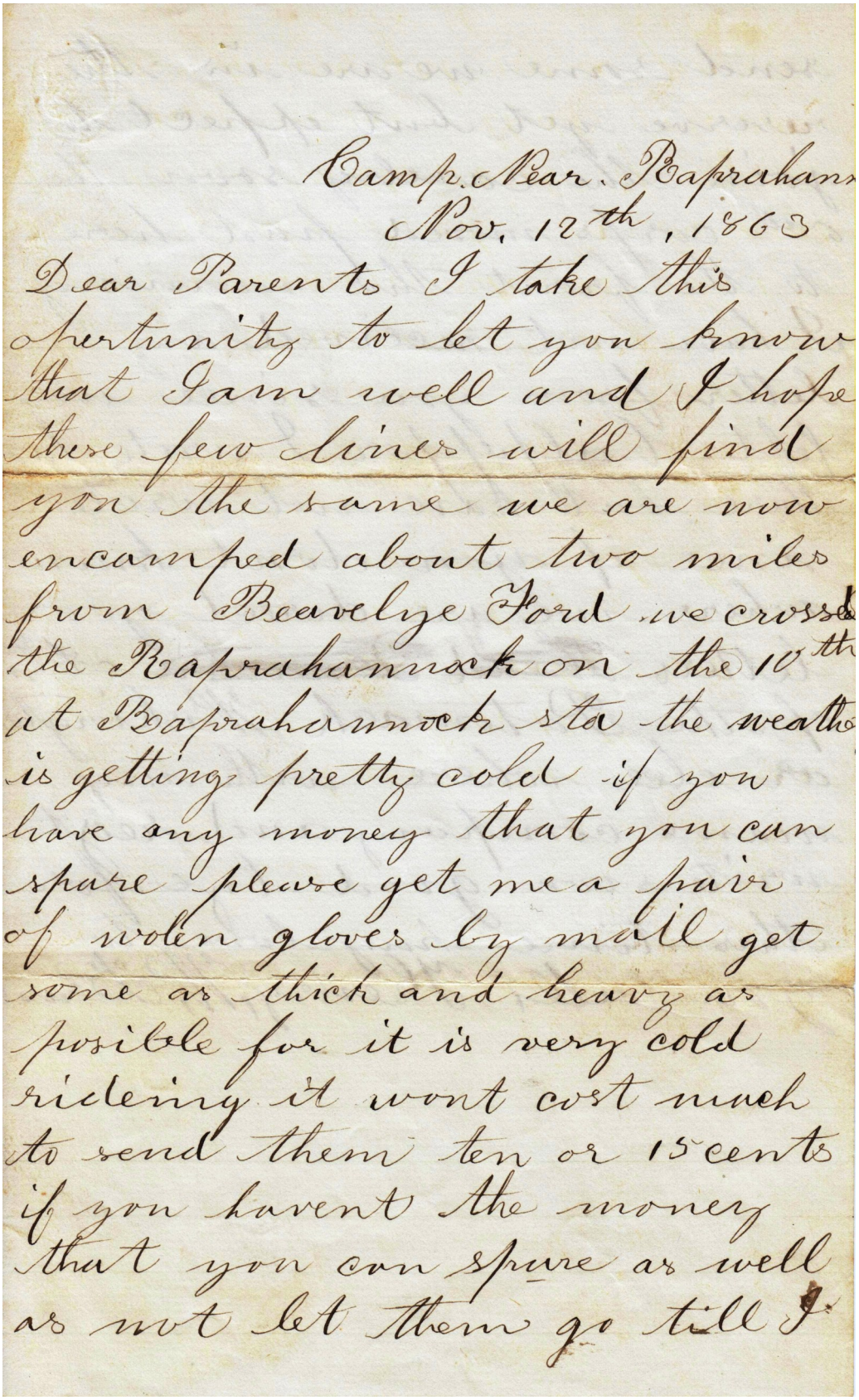
saddled and remained so till about
ten oclock the next day when we
unharnessed in about half an
hour boots and saddles was
sounded and our sect hitched
up and started for the river
upon the run the rebels had crossed
and were driving our pickets back
a regt of cavelry dismounted and
deployed as skirmishers and went
a head our peice came in battery
and commenced fireing our skirm-
ishers advanced and after about
an hour succeeded in driving the
rebs acrossed the river sharpshoot-
ing was kept up all the after
noon we fired ocasionaly all the
afternoon Gen Davis was there
and many other whenever they
saw any object to fire at we
would fire we hit the object
nearly every time Gen Davis
pronounced it the best fireing
he had ever seen he gave our

September 27,1863 (1863.09.27) Page 7, Camp Near Culpeper



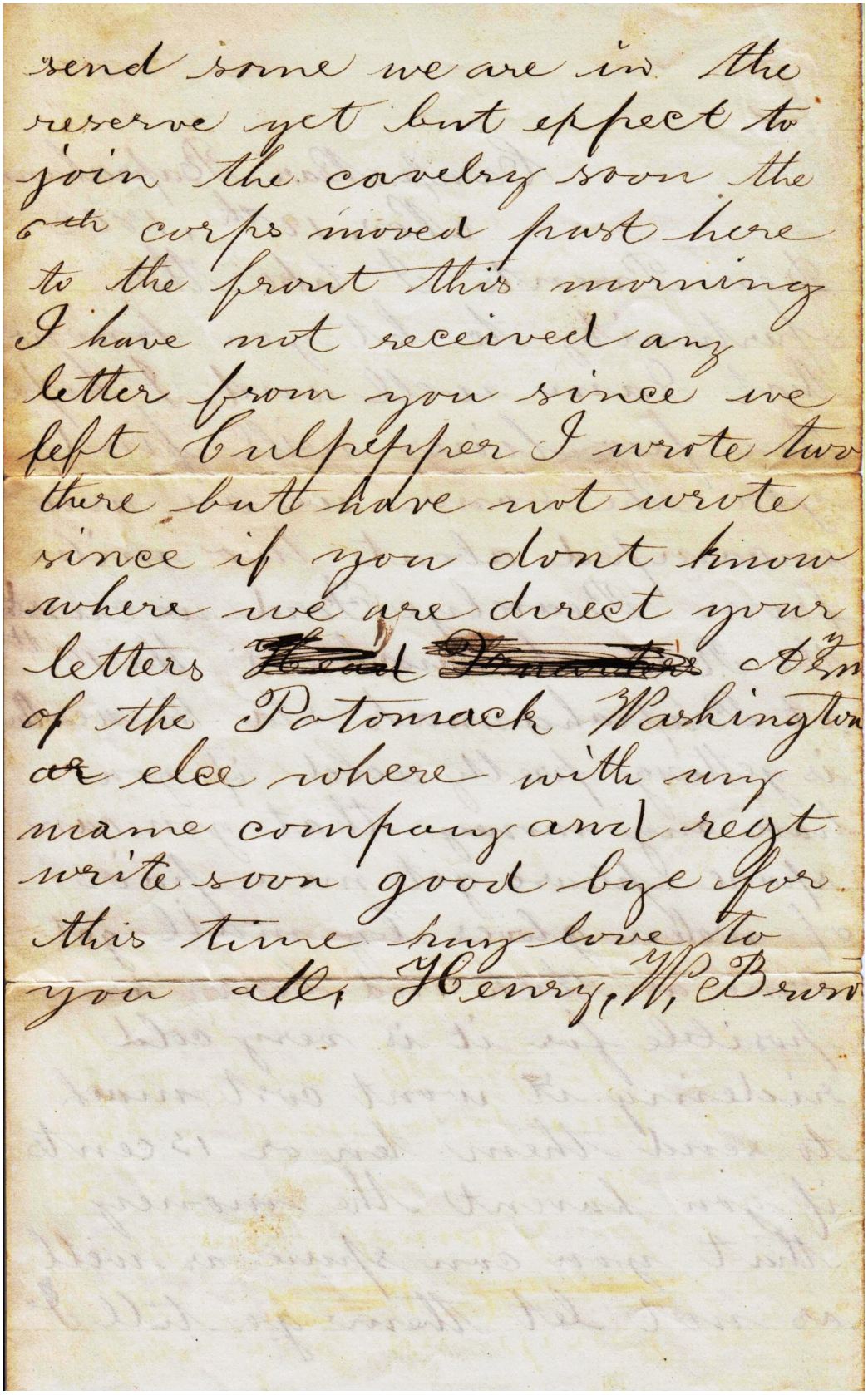
gunner great praise about an
hour before sundown a batty
of four guns opend on us from
a high hill we opend on them
with two peices and in a few
minutes silenced them after
we stoped fireing they would
open again when we would
belch away again they would
stop in this way it continue
till sundown when we gave
them a parting shot and
retired to camp the rebels
admit that their battery suf
ird severly and thought ours
loss must have been great however
now one was hurt Thursday
morning our sect was ordered
to the river we fired 3 rounds
and left Gen Kilpatrick issue
an order in which he compli
mented his men very hig
ly

September 27, 1863 (1863.09.27) Page 8, Camp Near Culpeper



Camp. Near. Rapahan
Nov. 12th, 1863
Dear Parents I take this
opertunity to let you know
that I am well and I hope
these few liners will find
you the same we are now
encamped about two miles
from Beavelye Ford we crossd
the Rapahannock on the 10th
at Rapahannock sta the weath
is getting pretty cold if you
have any money that you can
spare pleave get me a pair
of wolen gloves by mail get
some as thick and heavy as
posible for it is very cold
riding it wont cost much
to send them ten or 15 cents
if you havent the money
that you can spare as well
as not let them go till I

November 12, 1863 (1863.11.12) Page 1, Camp Near Culpeper



send some we are in the
reserve yet but expect to
join the cavelry soon the
6th corps moved past here
to the front this morning
I have not received any
letter from you since we
left Culpepper I wrote two
there but have not wrote
since if you dont know
where we are direct your
letters [redacted] 6th
of the Potomack Washington
or elce where with my
name company and regt
write soon good bye for
this time my love to
you all Henry W. Brown

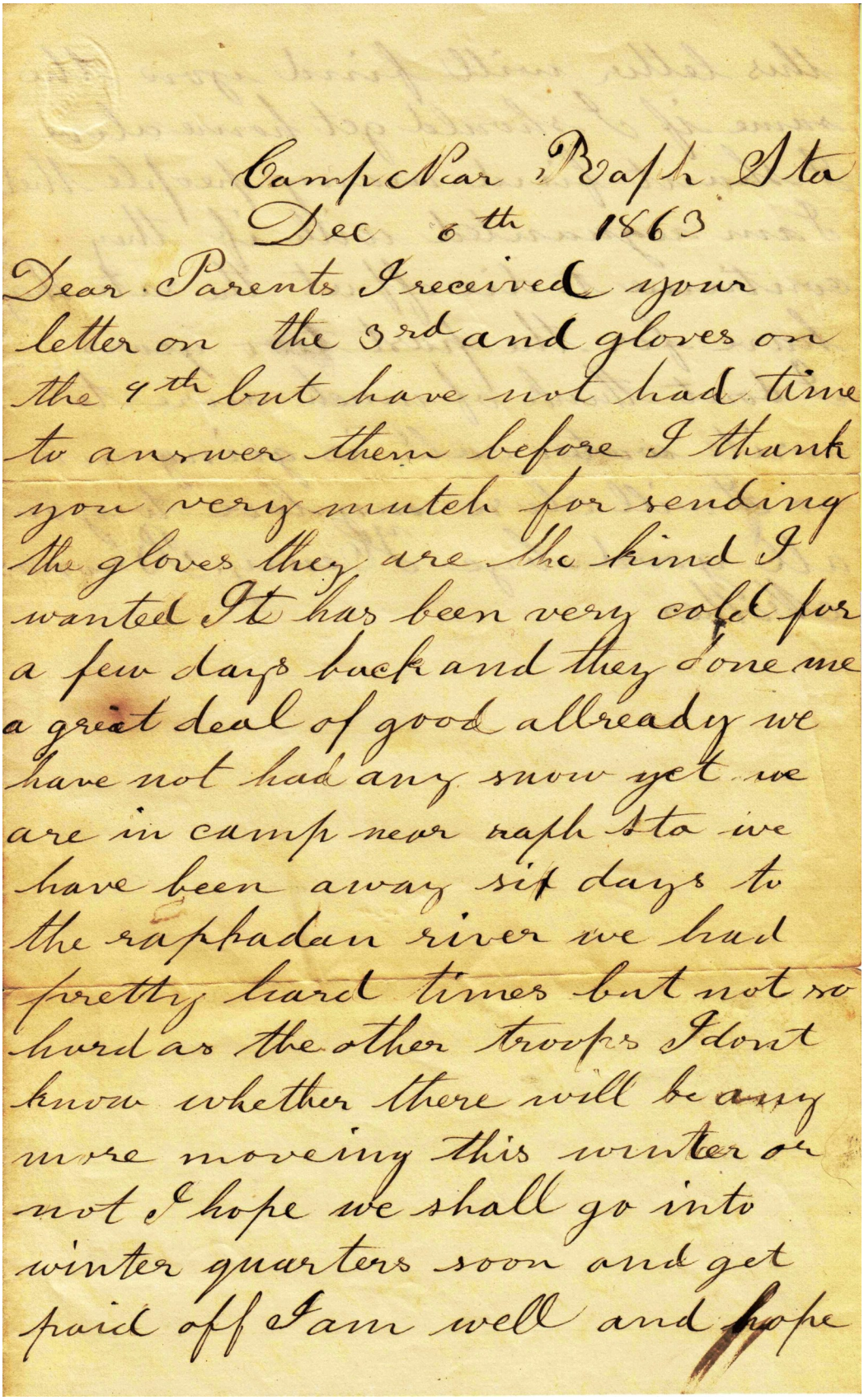
November 12, 1863 (1863.11.12) Page 2, Camp Near Culpeper



November 12, 1863 (1863.11.12) Envelope, Camp Near Culpeper



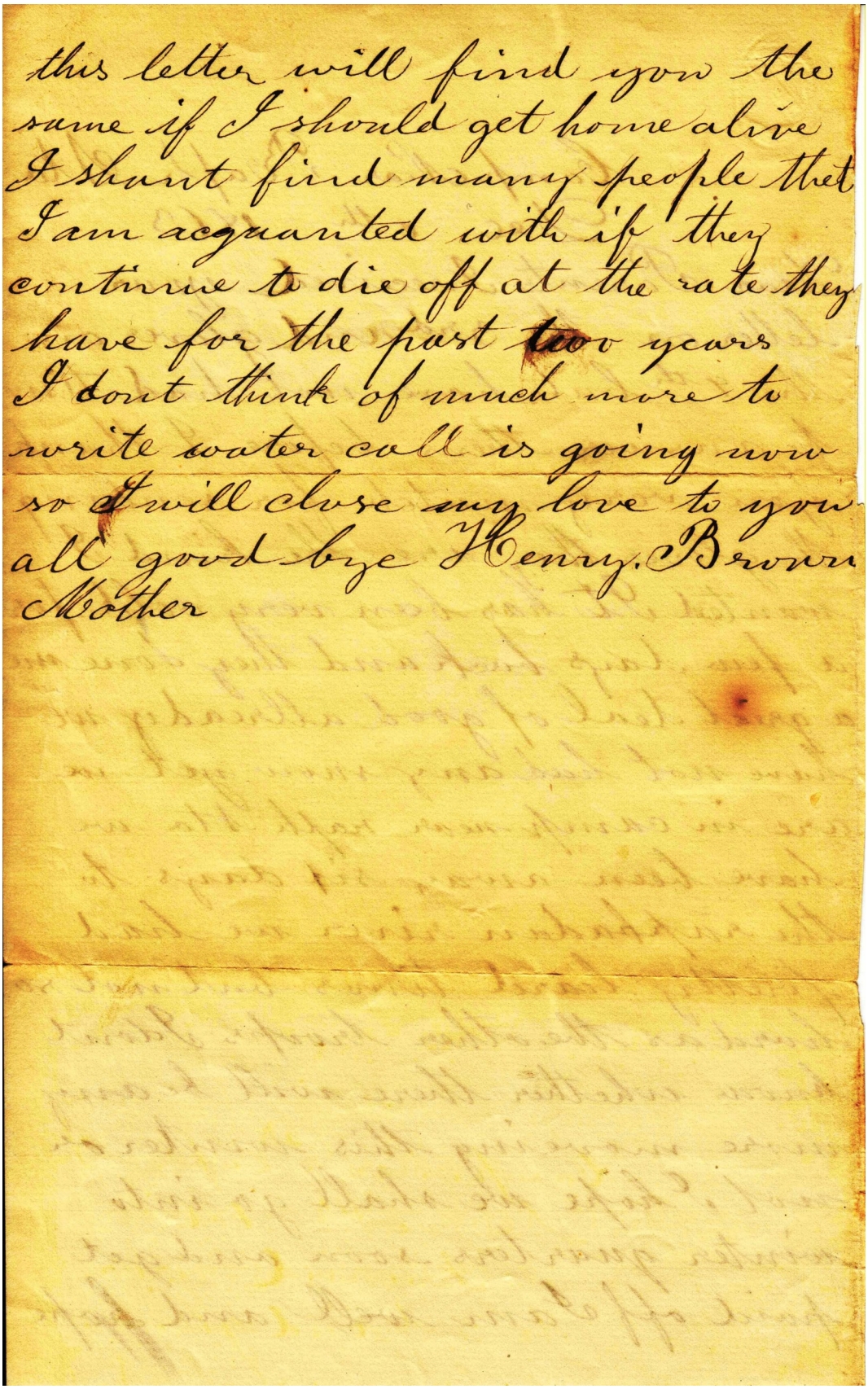
November 20, 1863 (1863.11.20) Envelope, Post Marked Washington



Camp Near Rapph Sta
Dec 6th 1863

Dear Parents I received your letter on the 3rd and gloves on the 4th but have not had time to answer them before I thank you very mutch for sending the gloves they are the kind I wanted It has been very cold for a few days back and they done me a great deal of good allready we have not had any snow yet we are in camp near raph Sta we have been away six days to the rapidan river we had pretty hard times but not so hard as the other troops I dont know whether there will be any more moveing this winter or not I hope we shall go into winter quarters soon and get paid off I am well and hope

December 6, 1863 (1863.12.06) Page 1, Camp Near Rappahannock

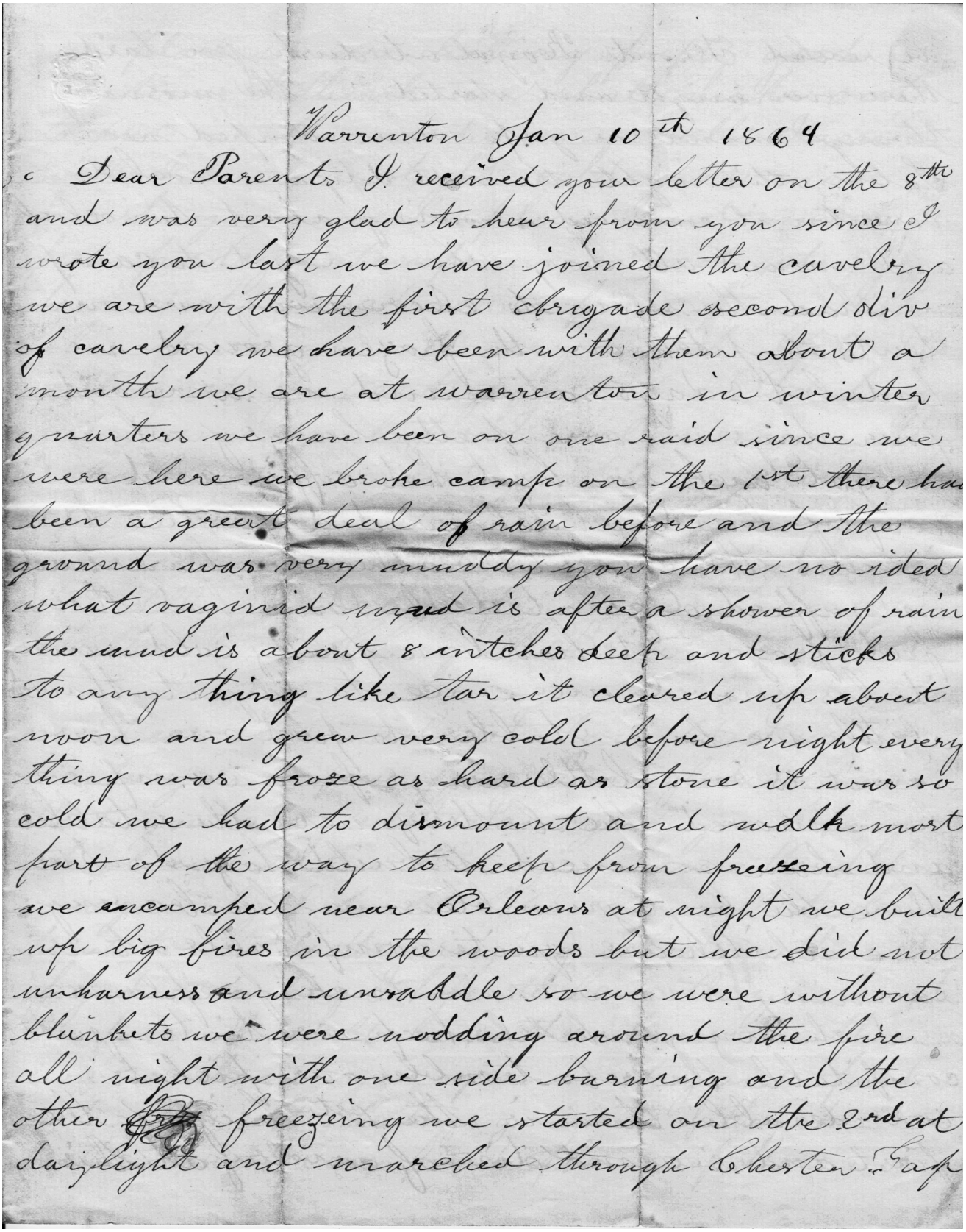


this letter will find you the
same if I should get home alive
I shant find many people that
I am acquanted with if they
continue to die off at the rate they
have for the past two years
I dont think of much more to
write water call is going now
so I will close my love to you
all good bye Henry. Brown
Mother

December 6, 1863 (1863.12.06) Page 2, Camp Near Rappahannock



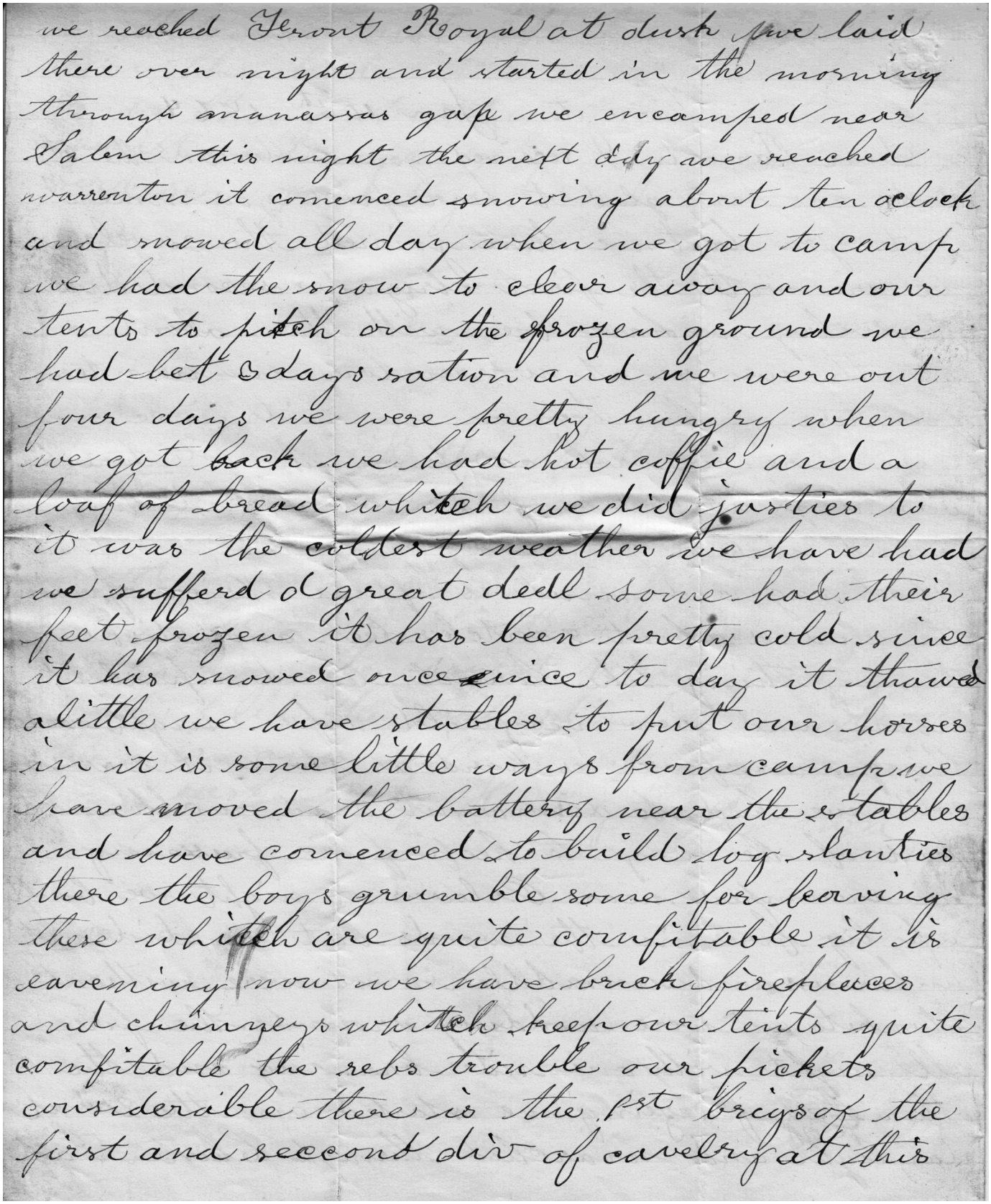
December 6, 1863 (1863.12.06) Envelope, Camp Near Rappahannock



Warrenton Jan 10th 1864

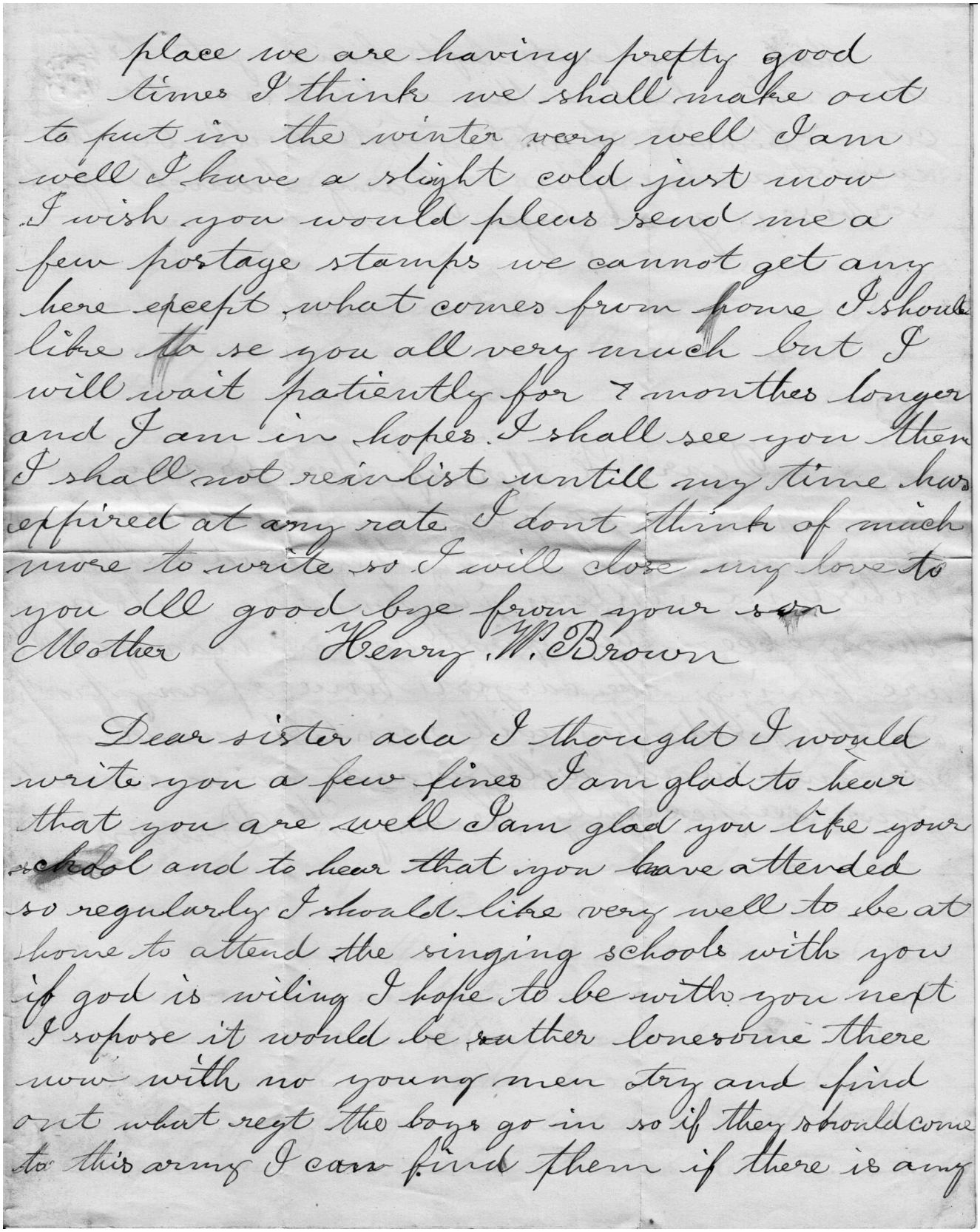
Dear Parents I received your letter on the 8th and was very glad to hear from you since I wrote you last we have joined the cavelry we are with the first brigade second div of cavelry we have been with them about a month we are at warrenton in winter quarters we have been on one raid since we were here we broke camp on the 1st there has been a great deal of rain before and the ground was very muddy you have no ided what vaginia mud is after a shower of rain the mud is about 8 inches deep and sticks to any thing like tar it cleared up about noon and grew very cold before night every thing was froze as hard as stone it was so cold we had to dismount and walk most part of the way to keep from freezing we encamped near Orleans at night we built up big fires in the woods but we did not unharness and unsaddle so we were without blanbets we were nodding around the fire all night with one side burning and the other freezing we started on the 2nd at daylight and marched through Chester Gap

January 10, 1864 (1864.01.10) Page 1, Warrenton, VA



we reached Front Royal at dusk we laid there over night and started in the morning through manassas gap we encamped near Salem this night the neft day we reached warrenton it comenced snowing about ten oclock and snowed all day when we got to camp we had the snow to clear away and our tents to pitch on the frozen ground we had bet 6 days ration and we were out four days we were pretty hungry when we got back we had hot coffie and a loaf of bread which we did justies to it was the coldest weather we have had we suffered a great deal some had their feet frozen it has been pretty cold since it has snowed once since to day it thawed a little we have stables to put our horses in it is some little ways from camp we have moved the battery near the stables and have comenced to build log shanties there the boys grumble some for leaving these which are quite comfitable it is cavening now we have brick fireplaces and chimneys which keep our tents quite comfitable the rebs trouble our pickets considerable there is the 1st brigs of the first and seccond div of cavelry at this

January 10, 1864 (1864.01.10) Page 2, Warrenton, VA



place we are having pretty good
times I think we shall make out
to put in the winter very well I am
well I have a slight cold just now
I wish you would please send me a
few postage stamps we cannot get any
here except what comes from home I should
like to see you all very much but I
will wait patiently for 7 monthes longer
and I am in hopes I shall see you then
I shall not reinlist untill my time has
eppired at any rate I dont think of much
more to write so I will close my love to
you all good bye from your son
Mother Henry W. Brown

Dear sister ada I thought I would
write you a few lines I am glad to hear
that you are well I am glad you like your
school and to hear that you have attended
so regularly I should like very well to be at
home to attend the singing schools with you
if god is wiling I hope to be with you next
I sopose it would be rather lonesome there
now with no young men try and find
out what next the boys go in so if they should come
to this army I can find them if there is any

January 10, 1864 (1864.01.10) Page 3, Warrenton, VA

that have not left home yet tell them they had better enlist in the 1st conn heavy Artilery it will be the easiest and softest of any branch of the serbise, good bye

Dear Father if there is any young men agoing to enlist about there tell them I say they had better enlist in artilery in preferance to any thing else the first conn heavy Artly are having the easyist time of any troops in the field they will reinlist most of the men and will want some recruits yours respectfully Henry W Brown

January 10, 1864 (1864.01.10) Page 4, Warrenton, VA

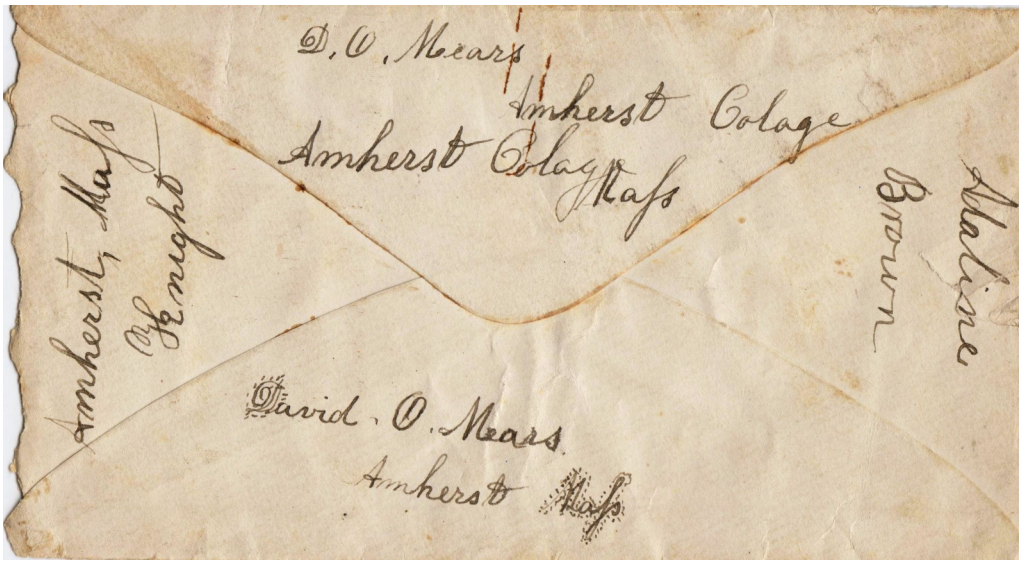


January 10, 1864 (1864.01.10) Envelope, Warrenton, VA

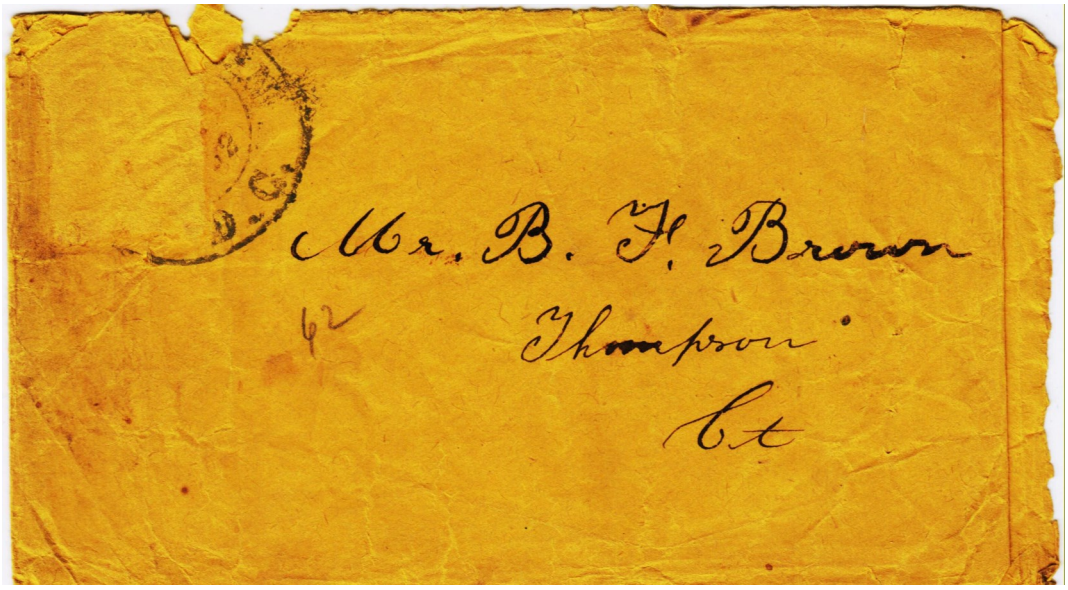


January 13, 1864 (1864.01.13) Envelope, Washington

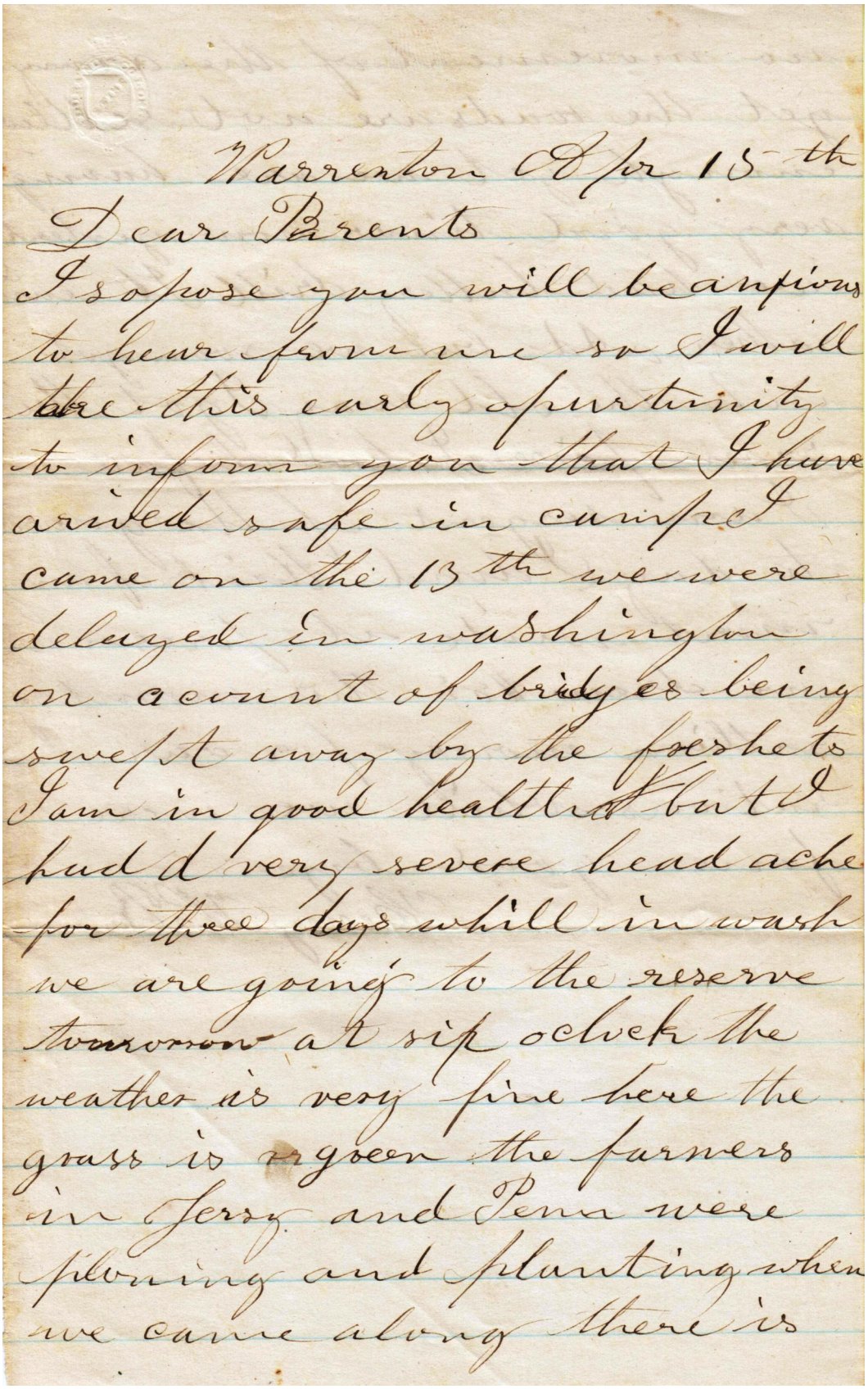




February 8, 1864 (1864.02.08) Envelope, Washington



March 24, 1864 (1862.03.24) Envelope, Washington

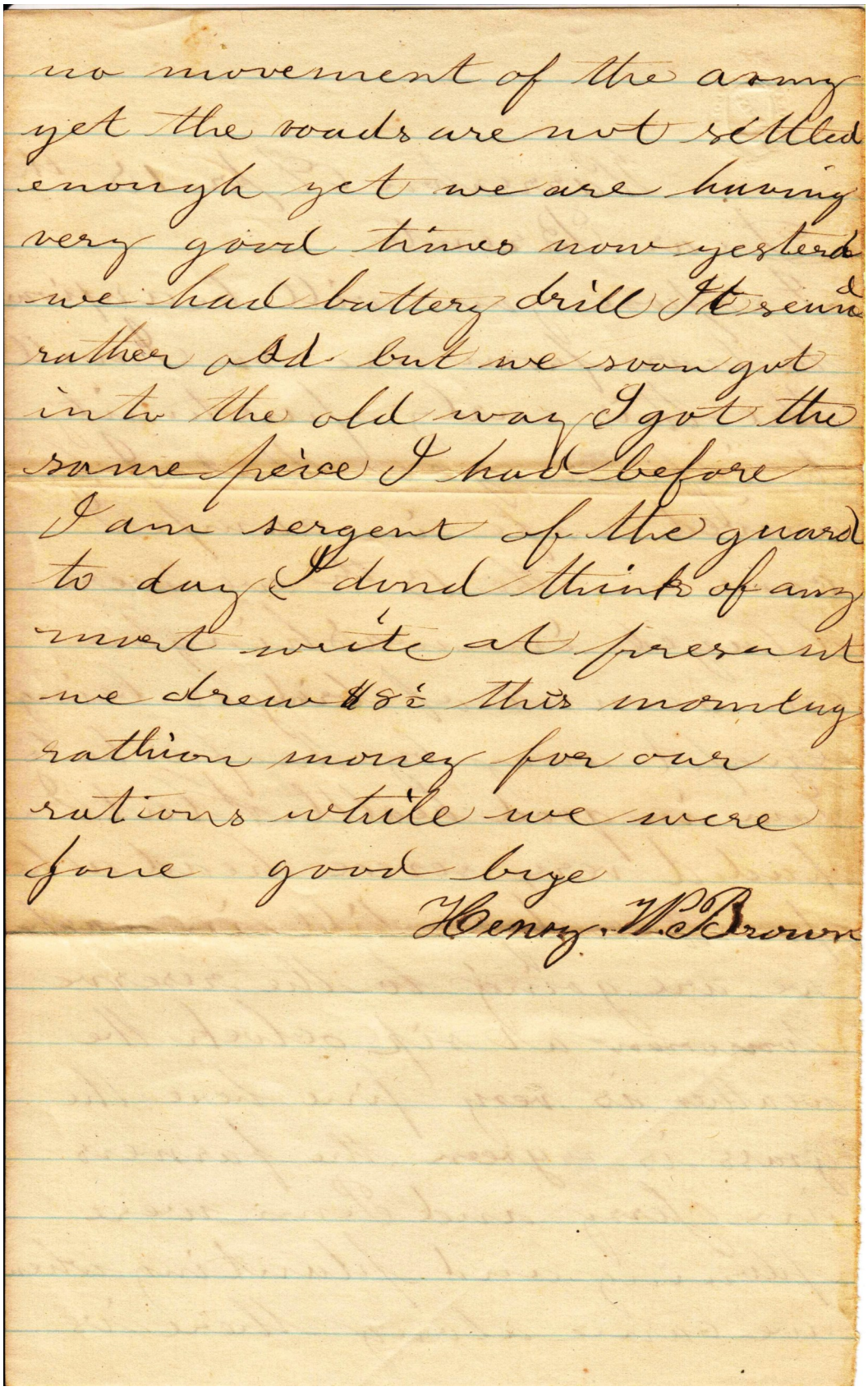


Warrenton Va Apr 15th

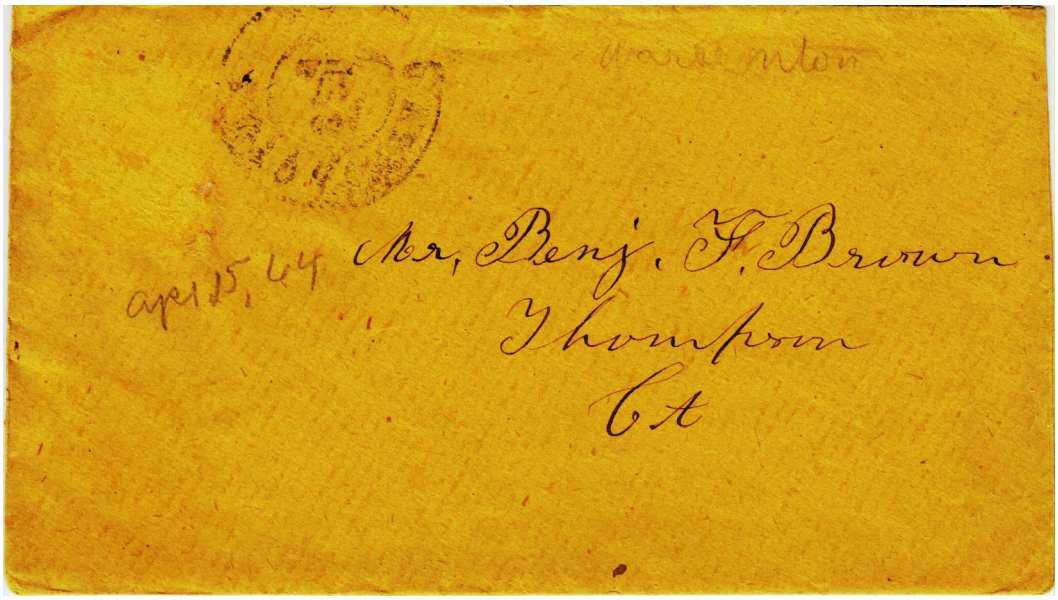
Dear Parents

I suppose you will be anxious to hear from me so I will take this early opportunity to inform you that I have arrived safe in camp I came on the 13th we were delayed in washington on account of bridges being swept away by the freshets I am in good health but I had a very severe head ache for three days while in wash we are going to the reserve tomorrow at six oclock the weather is very fine here the grass is green the farmers in Jersy and Penn were plowing and planting when we came along there is

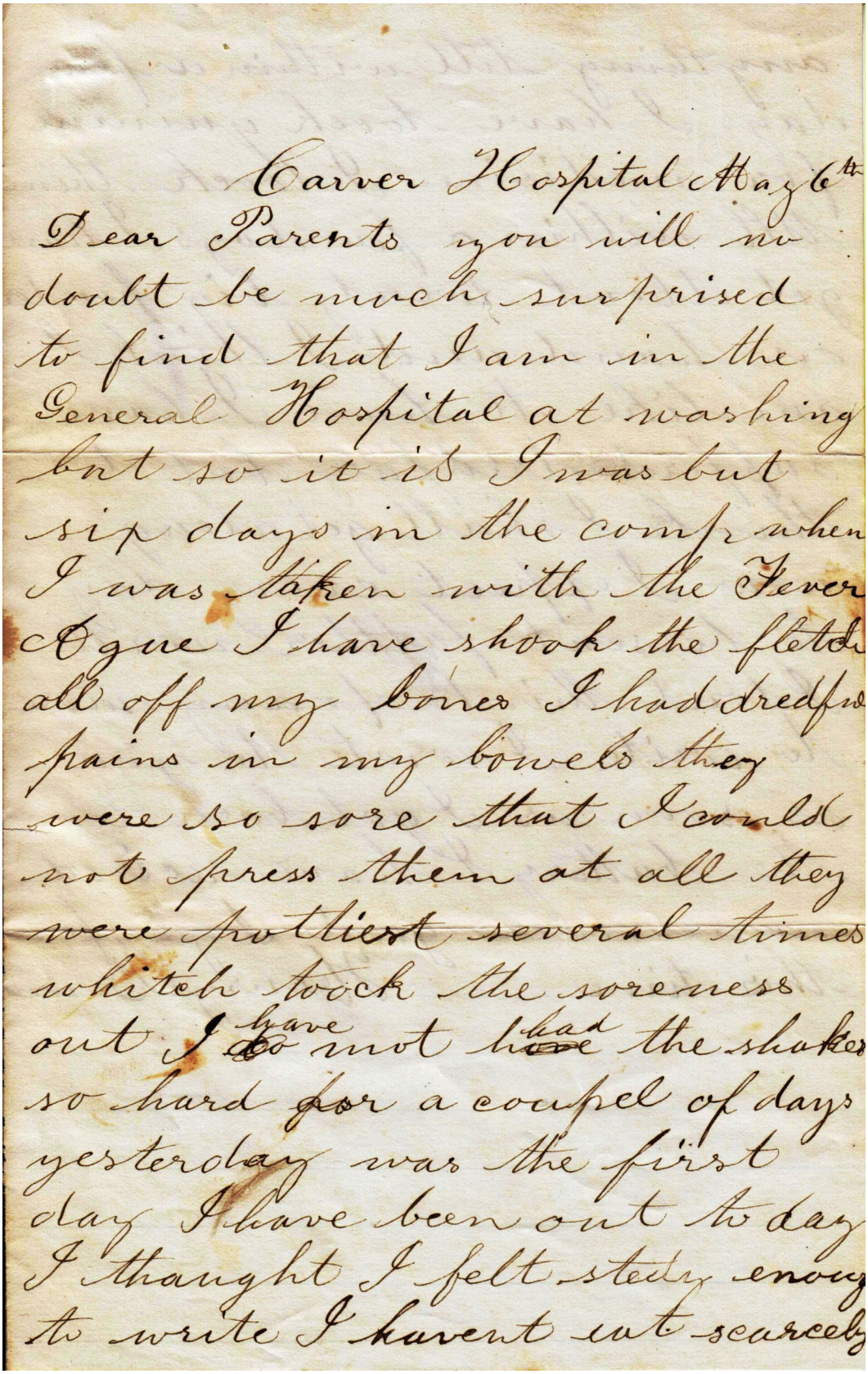
April 15, 1864 (1864.04.15) Page 1, Warrenton, VA



no movement of the army
yet the roads are not settled
enough yet we are having
very good times now yesterd
we had battery drill It seem
rather odd but we soon got
in to the old way I got the
same peice I had before
I am sergent of the guard
to day I dond think of any
more write at present
we drew $8 this monday
rathion money for our
rations while we were
gone good bye
Henry W Brown



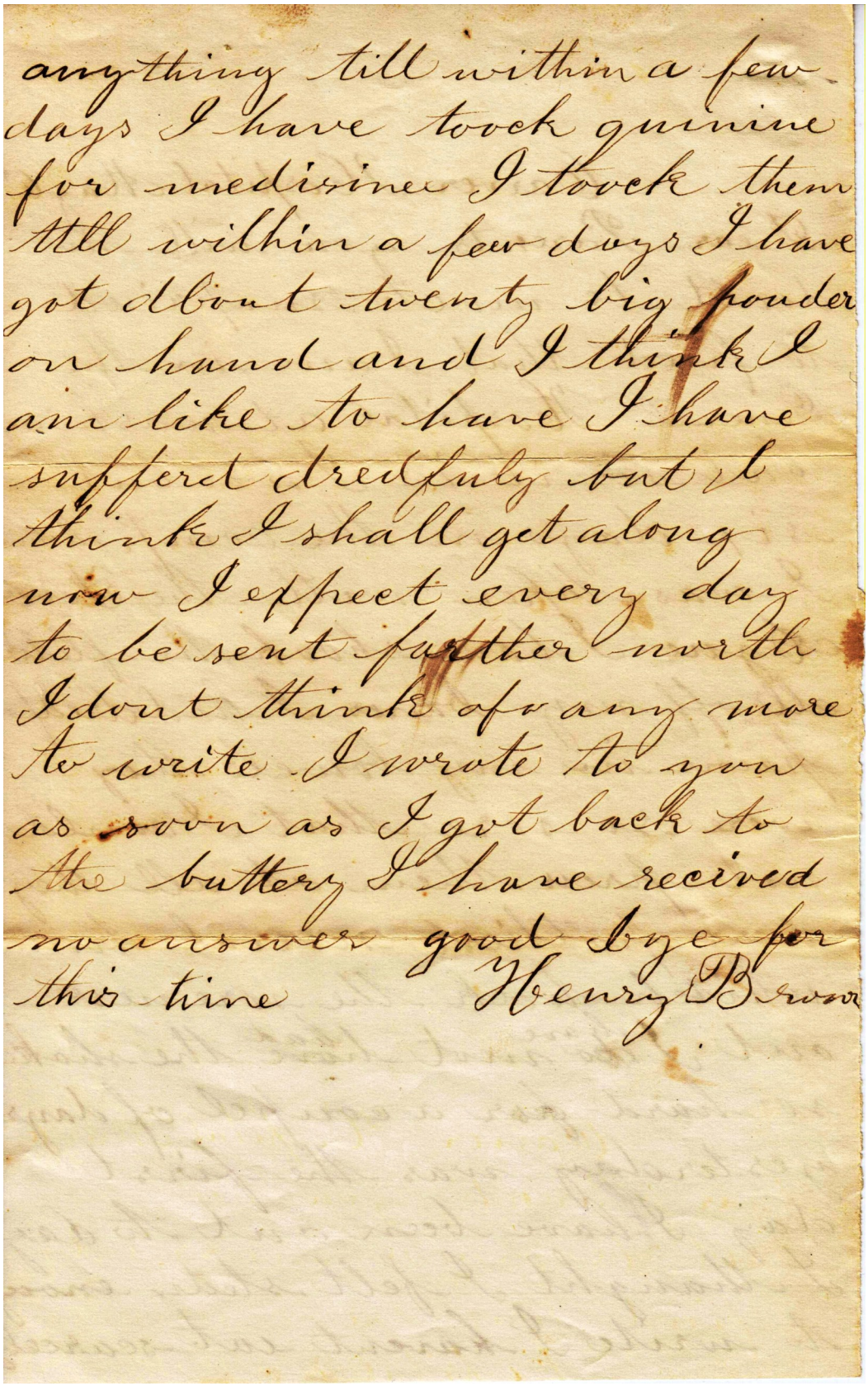
April 15, 1864 (1864.04.15) Envelope, Warrenton, VA



Carver Hospital May 6th

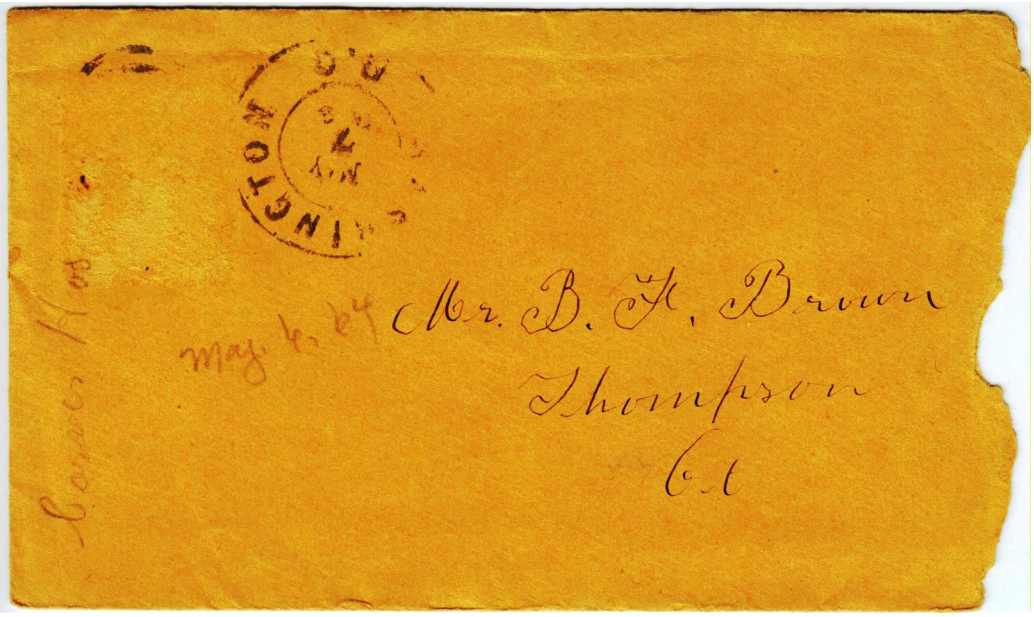
Dear Parents you will no
doubt be much surprised
to find that I am in the
General Hospital at washing
but so it is I was but
six days in the comp when
I was taken with the Fever
& Ogue I have shook the fleth
all off my bones I had dredfu
pains in my bowels they
were so sore that I could
not press them at all they
were spotted several times
which took the soreness
out I have not had the shakes
so hard for a coupel of days
yesterday was the first
day I have been out to day
I thaught I felt steady enou
to write I havent eat scarcely

May 6, 1864 (1864.05.06) Page 1, Carver Hospital, Washington

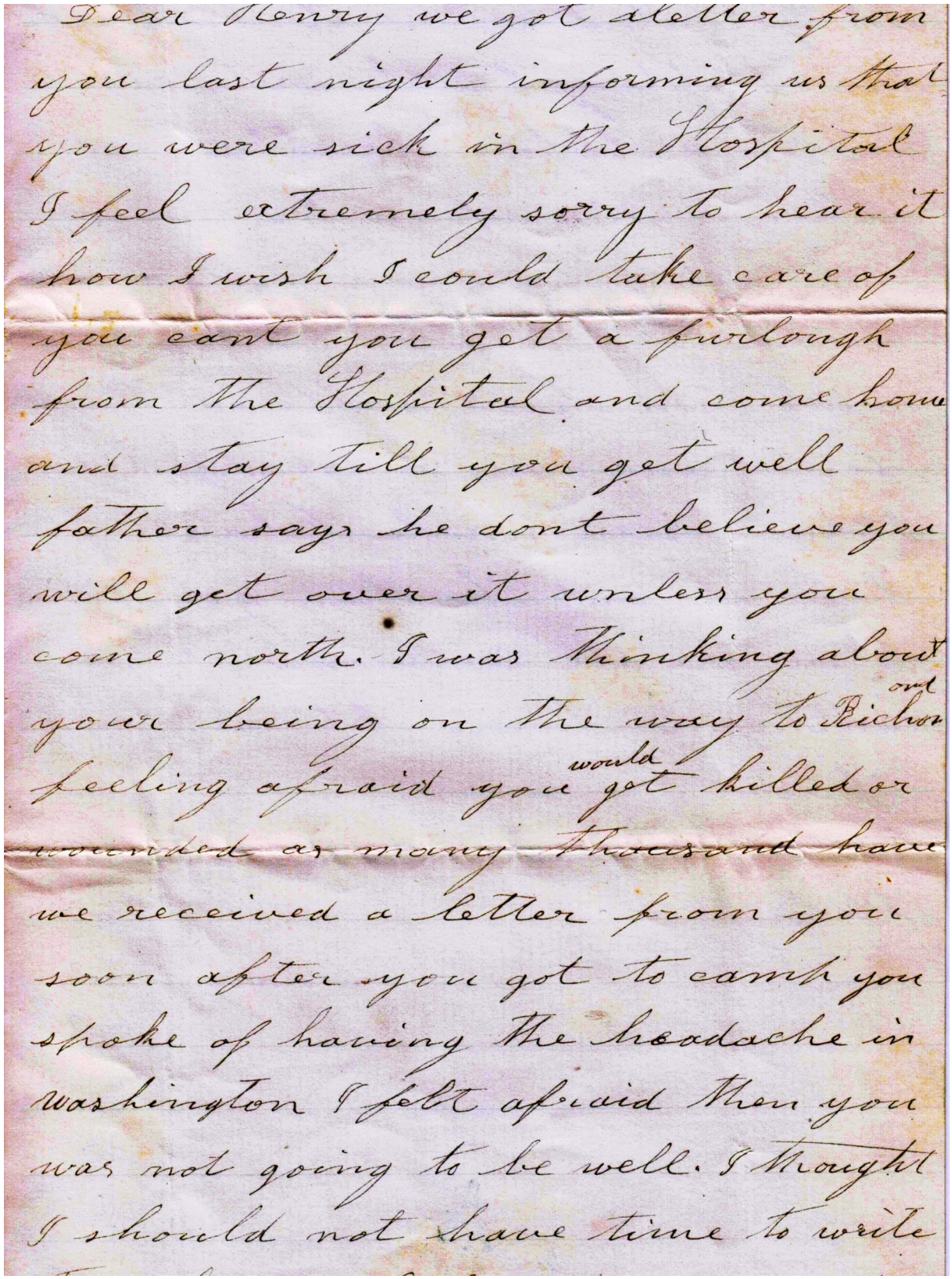


anything till within a few
days I have took quinine
for medicine I took them
till within a few days I have
got about twenty big powder
on hand and I think I
am like to have I have
suffered dredfuly but I
think I shall get along
now I expect every day
to be sent further north
I dont think of any more
to write I wrote to you
as soon as I got back to
the battery I have received
no answer good bye for
this time Henry Brown

May 6, 1864 (1864.05.06) Page 2, Carver Hospital, Washington

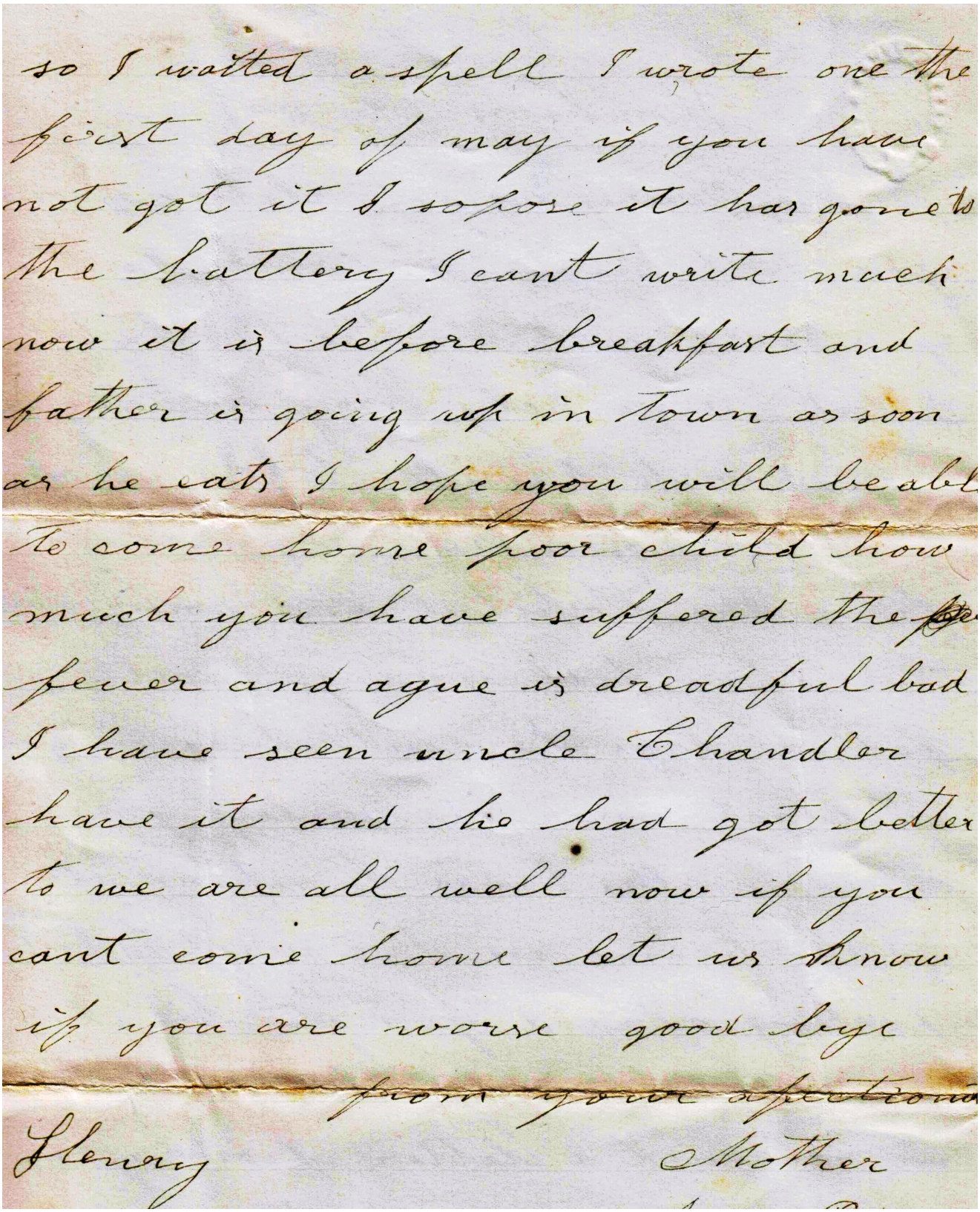


May 6, 1864 (1864.05.06) Envelope, Carver Hospital, Washington



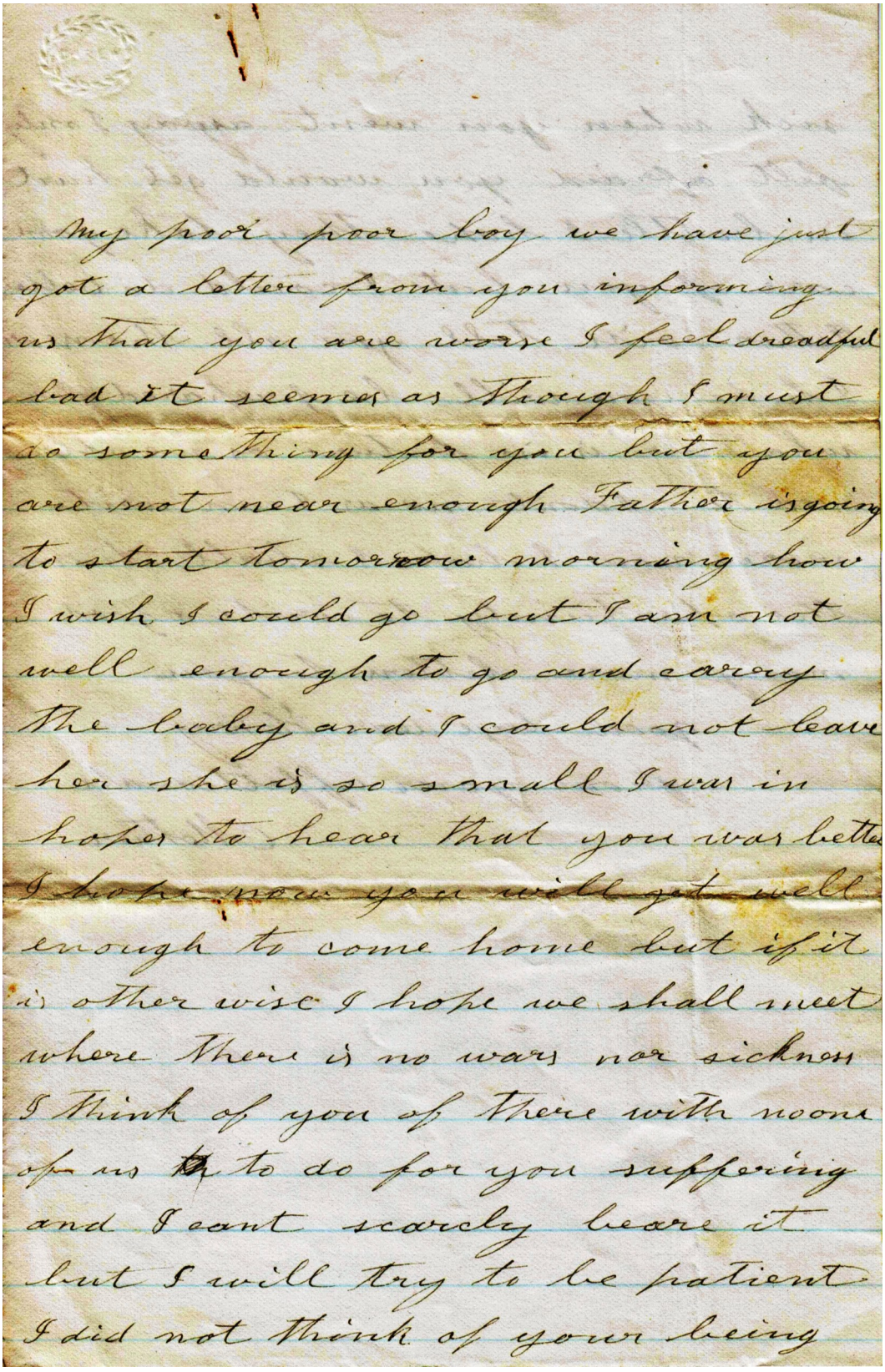
Dear Henry we got a letter from
you last night informing us that
you were sick in the Hospital
I feel extremely sorry to hear it
how I wish I could take care of
you cant you get a furlough
from the Hospital and come home
and stay till you get well
father says he dont believe you
will get over it unless you
come north. I was thinking about
your being on the way to Richmond
feeling afraid you would get killed or
wounded as many thousand have
we received a letter from you
soon after you got to camp you
spoke of having the headache in
Washington I felt afraid then you
was not going to be well. I thought
I should not have time to write

May 8, 1864 (1864.05.08) Page 1, Thompson, CT



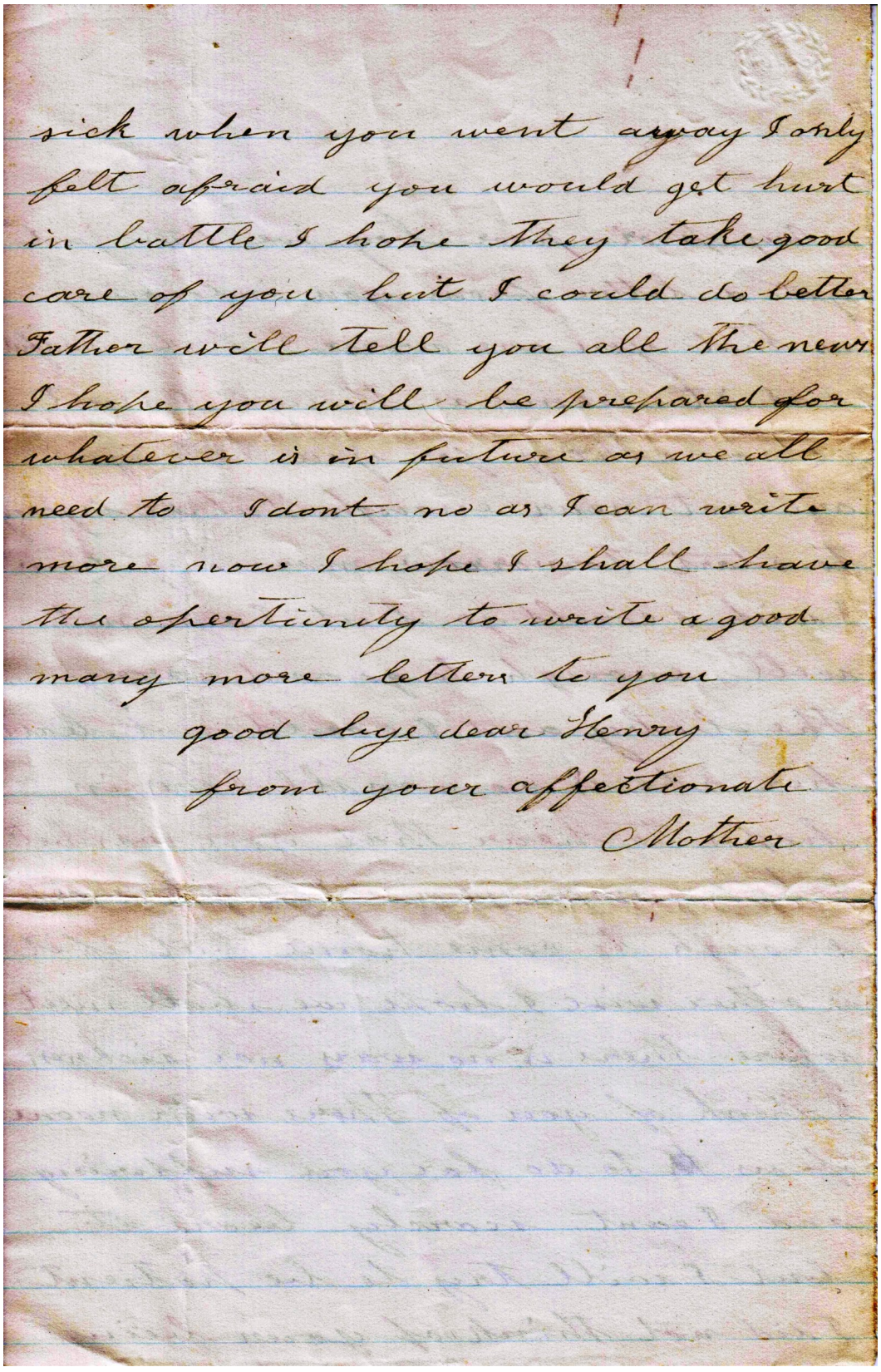
so I waited a spell I wrote one the
first day of may if you have
not got it I suppose it has gone to
the battery I cant write much
now it is before breakfast and
father is going up in town as soon
as he eats I hope you will be able
to come home poor child how
much you have suffered the
fever and ague is dreadful bad
I have seen uncle Chandler
have it and he had got better
so we are all well now if you
cant come home let us know
if you are worse good bye
from your affectionate
Henry Mother

May 8, 1864 (1864.05.08) Page2, Thompson, CT



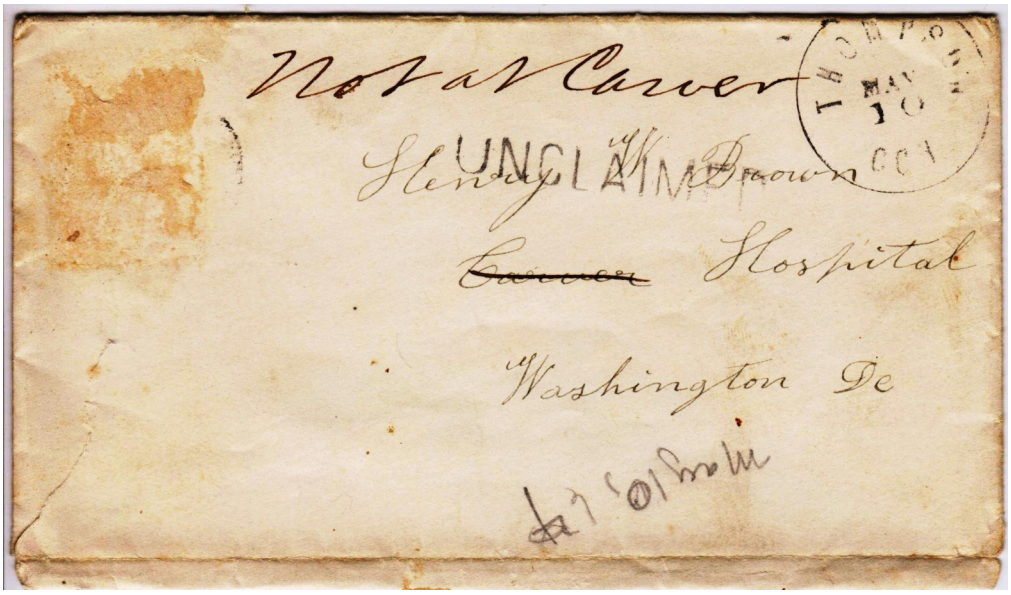
my poor poor boy we have just
got a letter from you informing
us that you are worse I feel dreadful
bad it seems as though I must
do something for you but you
are not near enough Father is going
to start tomorrow morning how
I wish I could go but I am not
well enough to go and carry
the baby and I could not leave
her she is so small I was in
hopes to hear that you was better
I hope now you will get well
enough to come home but if it
is other wise I hope we shall meet
where there is no wars nor sickness
I think of you of there with noone
of us to do for you suffering
and I cant scarcly beare it
but I will try to be patient
I did not think of your being

May 8, 1864 (1864.05.08) Page 3, Thompson, CT

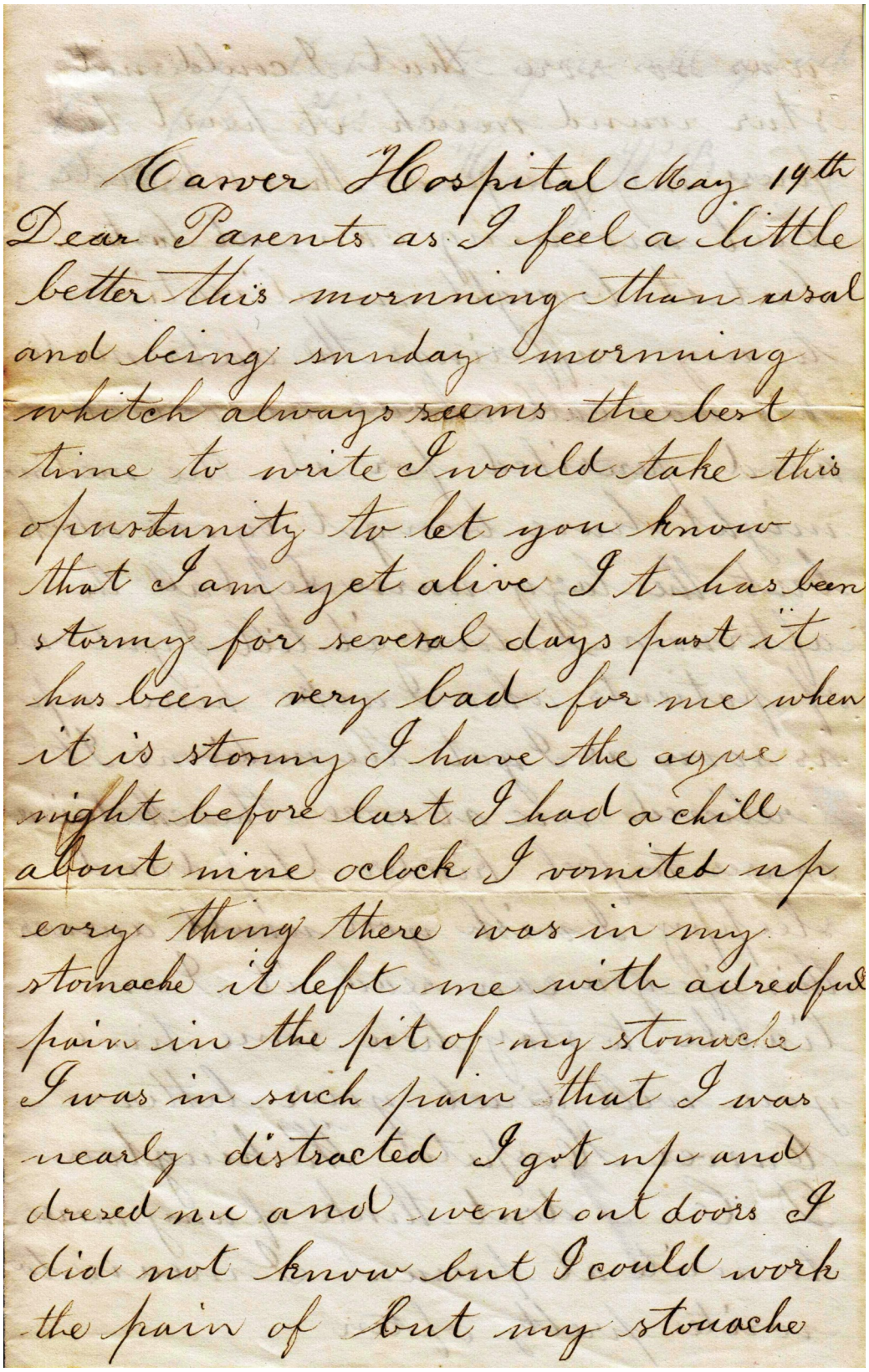


sick when you went away I only
felt afraid you would get hurt
in battle I hope they take good
care of you but I could do better
Father will tell you all the news
I hope you will be prepared for
whatever is in future as we all
need to I dont no as I can write
more now I hope I shall have
the opertiunity to write a good
many more letters to you
good bye dear Henry
from your affectionate
Mother

May 8, 1864 (1864.05.08) Page 4, Thompson, CT

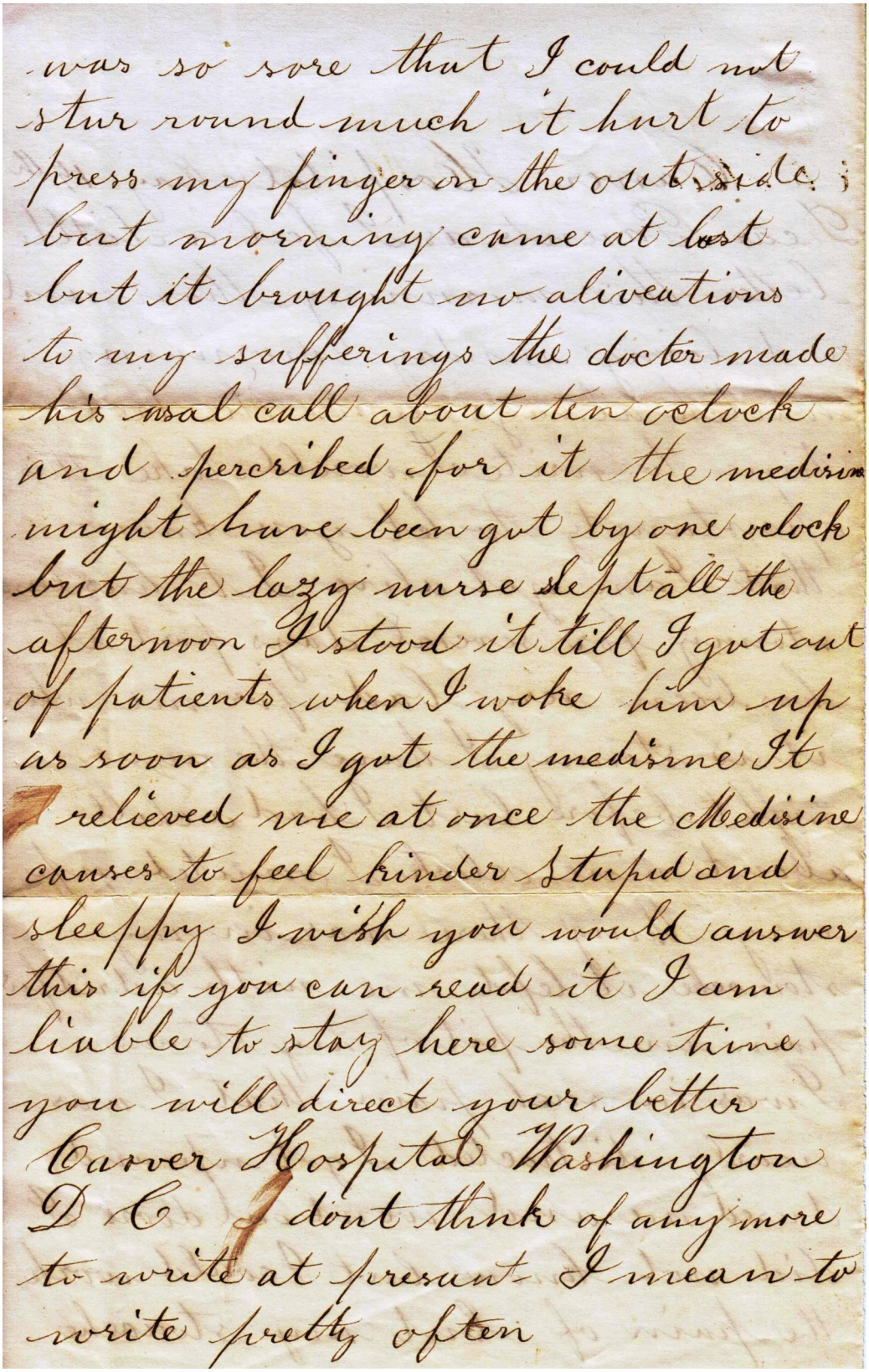


May 8, 1864 (1864.05.08) Envelope, Thompson, CT



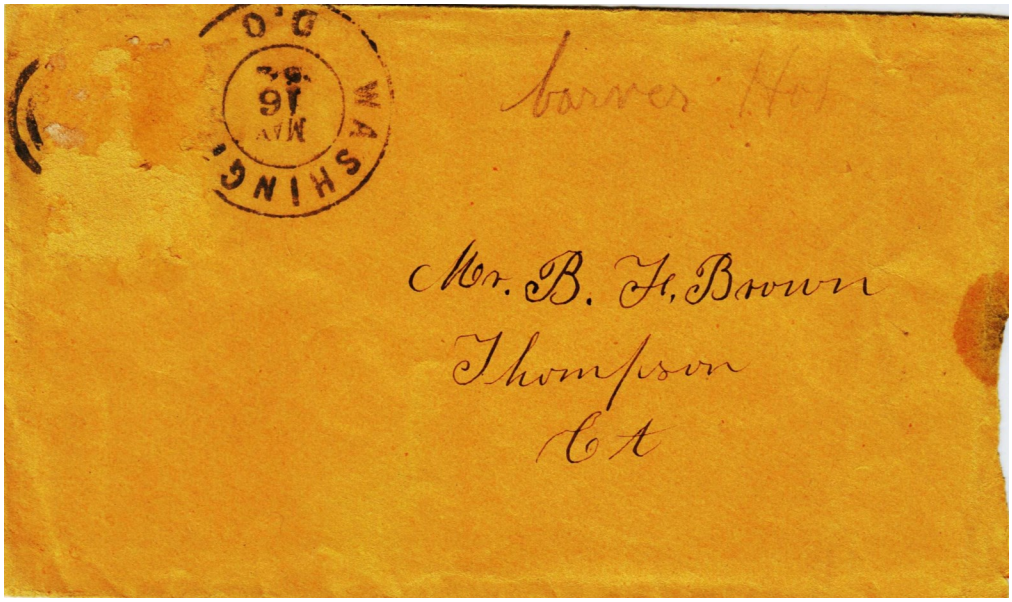
Carver Hospital May 19th
Dear Parents as I feel a little
better this morning than usal
and being sunday morning
which always seems the best
time to write I would take this
opurtunity to let you know
that I am yet alive It has been
stormy for several days past it
has been very bad for me when
it is stormy I have the agye
night before last I had a chill
about nine oclock I vomited up
every thing there was in my
stomache it left me with a dredful
pain in the pit of my stomache
I was in such pain that I was
nearly distracted I got up and
dresed me and went out doors I
did not know but I could work
the pain of but my stomache

May 19, 1864 (1864.05.19) Page 1, Carver Hospital, Washington

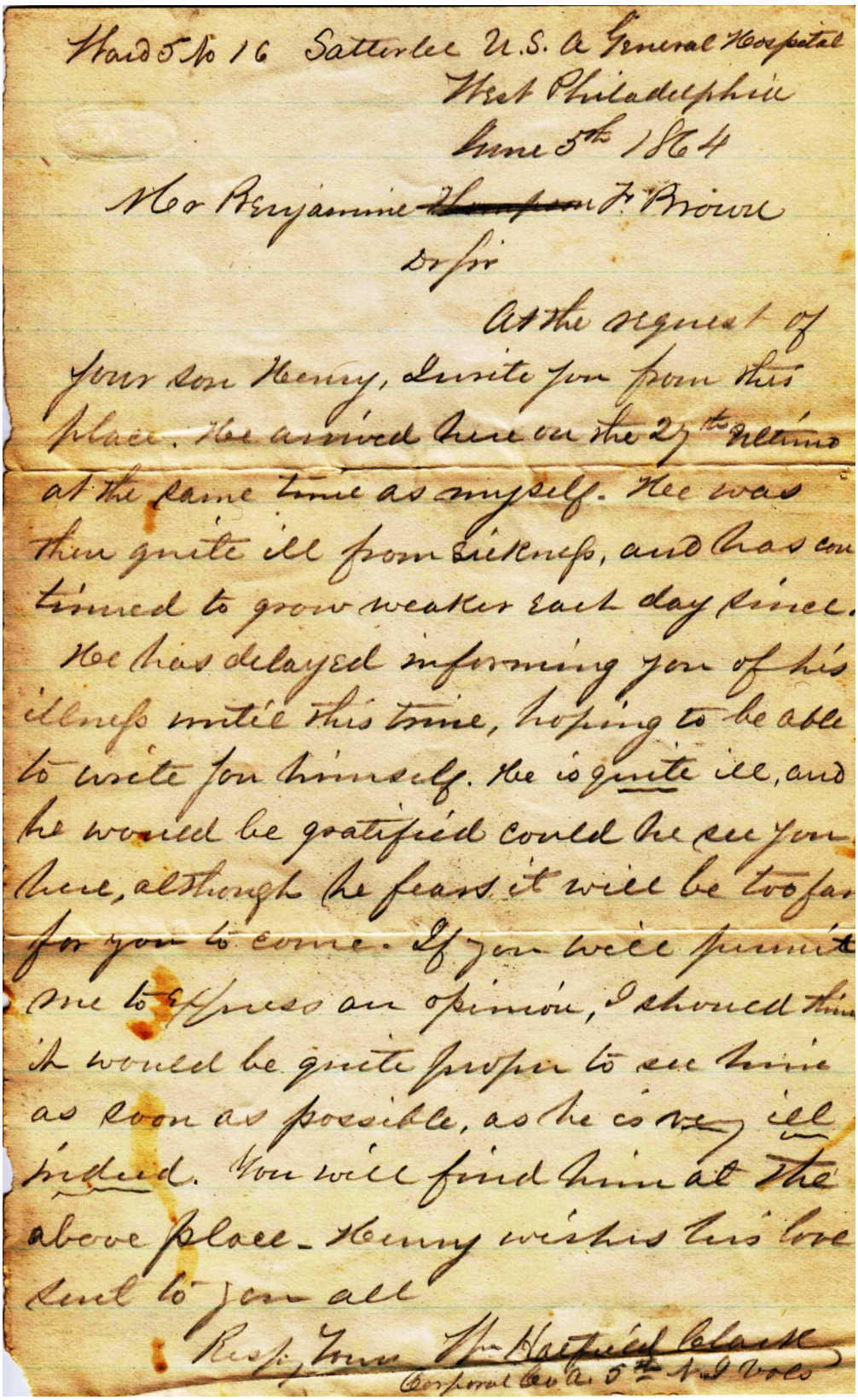


was so sore that I could not
stur round much it hurt to
press my finger on the outside
but morning came at last
but it brought no aliveations
to my sufferings the docter made
his usal call about ten oclock
and percribed for it the medisin
might have been got by one oclock
but the lazy nurse slept all the
afternoon I stood it till I got out
of patients when I woke him up
as soon as I got the medisine It
relieved me at once the Medisine
causes to feel kinder Stupid and
sleepy I wish you would answer
this if you can read it I am
liable to stay here some time
you will direct your letter
Carver Hospital Washington
D C I dont think of any more
to write at present I mean to
write pretty often

May 19, 1864 (1864.05.19) Page 2, Carver Hospital, Washington



May 19, 1864 (1864.05.19) Envelope, Carver Hospital, Washington



Ward 5 No 16 Satterlee U.S. A General Hospital
West Philadelphia
June 5th 1864

Mr Benjamin F. Brown

Dr Sir

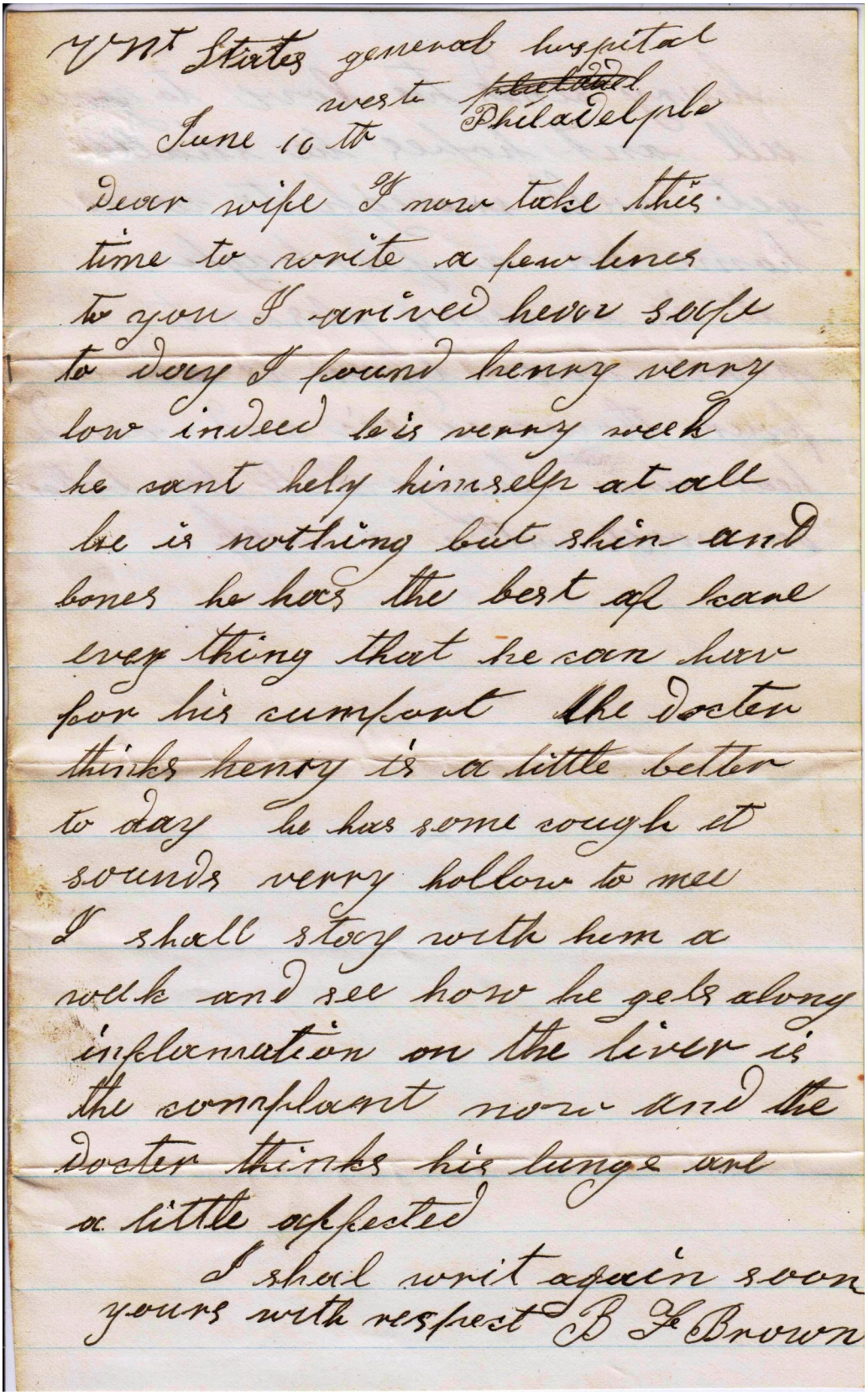
At the request of your son Henry, I write you from this place. He arrived here on the 27th ultimo at the same time as myself. He was then quite ill from sickness, and has continued to grow weaker each day since. He has delayed informing you of his illness until this time, hoping to be able to write you himself. He is quite ill, and he would be gratified could he see you here, although he fears it will be too far for you to come. If you will permit me to express an opinion, I should think it would be quite proper to see him as soon as possible, as he is very ill indeed. You will find him at the above place. Henry wishes his love sent to you all

Respy Yours &c Hatfield Clark
Corporal Co A. 5th N.J. Vols

June 5, 1864 (1864.06.05) Page 1, Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA



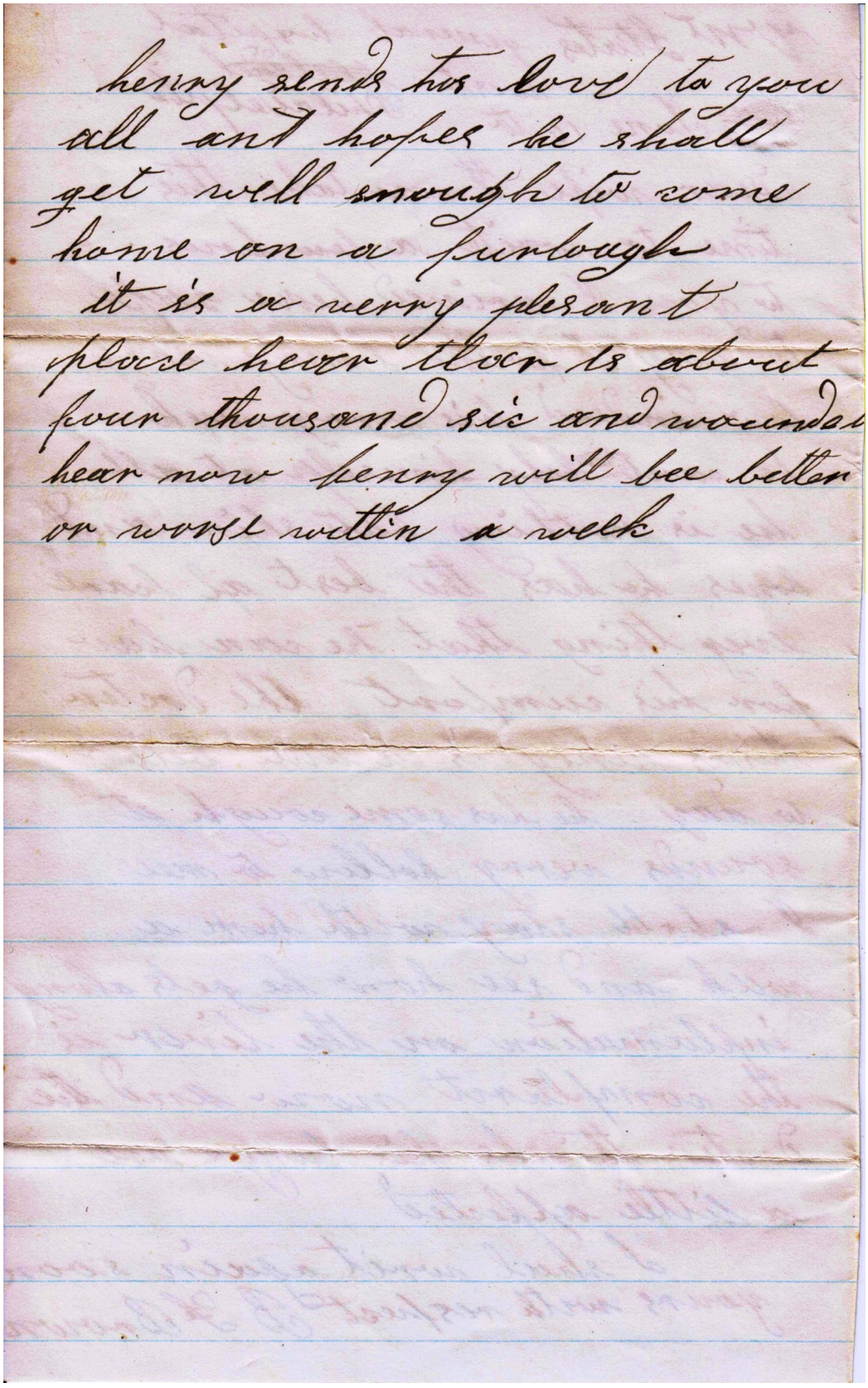
June 5, 1864 (1864.06.05) Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA



U.S. States general hospital
west ~~Philadelphia~~ Philadelphia
June 10 th

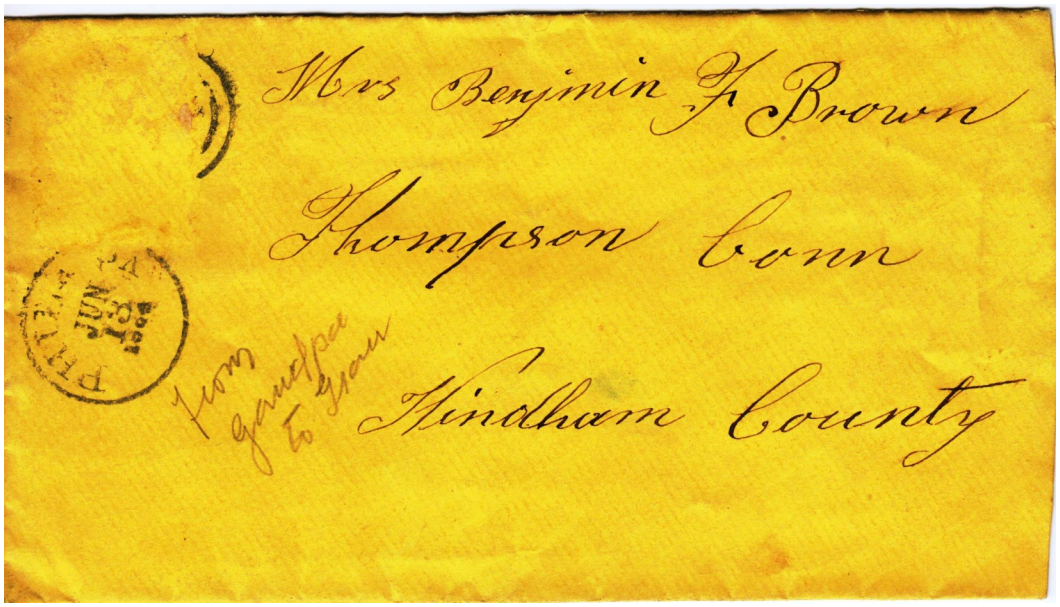
Dear wife I now take this
time to write a few lines
to you I arrived here safe
to day I found henry verry
low indeed he is verry weak
he cant help himself at all
he is nothing but skin and
bones he has the best of care
every thing that he can have
for his comfort the docter
thinks henry is a little better
to day he has some cough it
sounds verry hollow to me
I shall stay with him a
week and see how he gets along
inflamation on the liver is
the complaint now and the
docter thinks his lungs are
a little affected
I shall writ again soon
yours with respect B H Brown

June 10, 1864 (1864.06.10) Page 1, Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

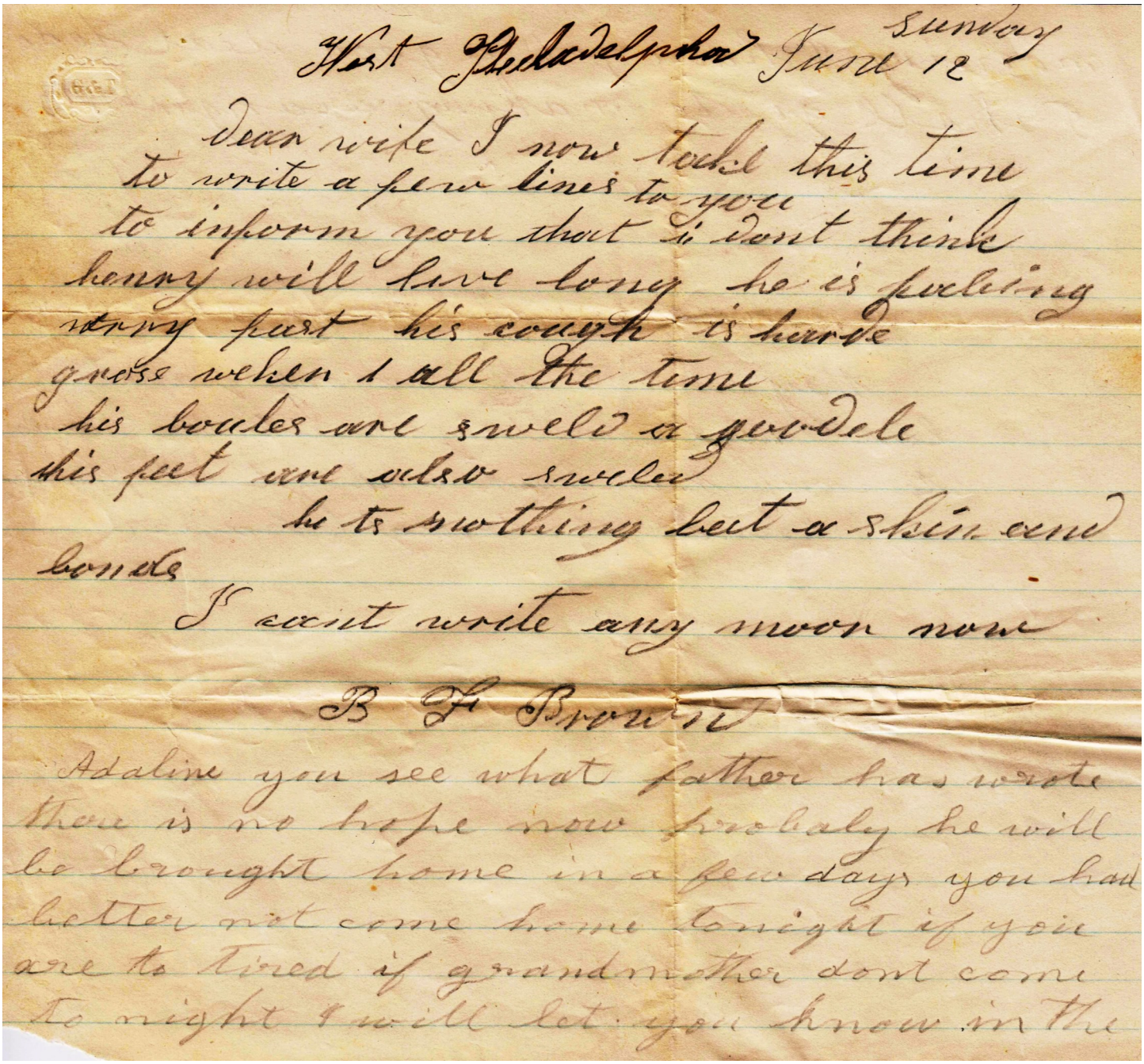


henry sends his love to you
all and hopes he shall
get well enough to come
home on a furlough
it is a verry pleasant
place here there is about
four thousand six and wounded
hear now henry will bee better
or worse within a week

1864.06.10 Page 2, Satterlee Hospital



June 10, 1864 (1864.06.10) Envelope, Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA



West Philadelphia Sunday June 12

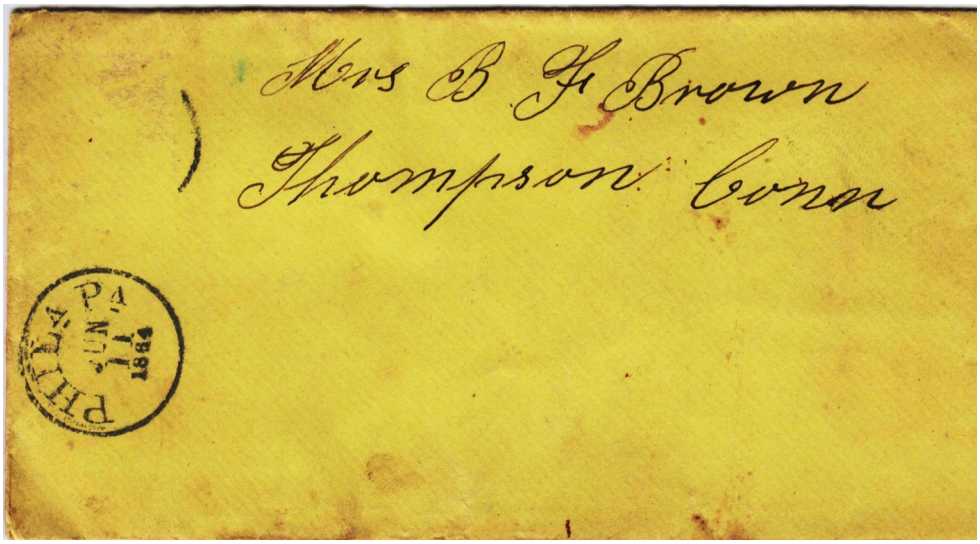
Dear wife I now took this time to write a few lines to you to inform you that I dont think henry will live long he is failing verry fast his cough is horrible gross when I all the time his bowles are swell a good dale this feet are also swelled he is nothing but a skin and bones

I cant write any more now

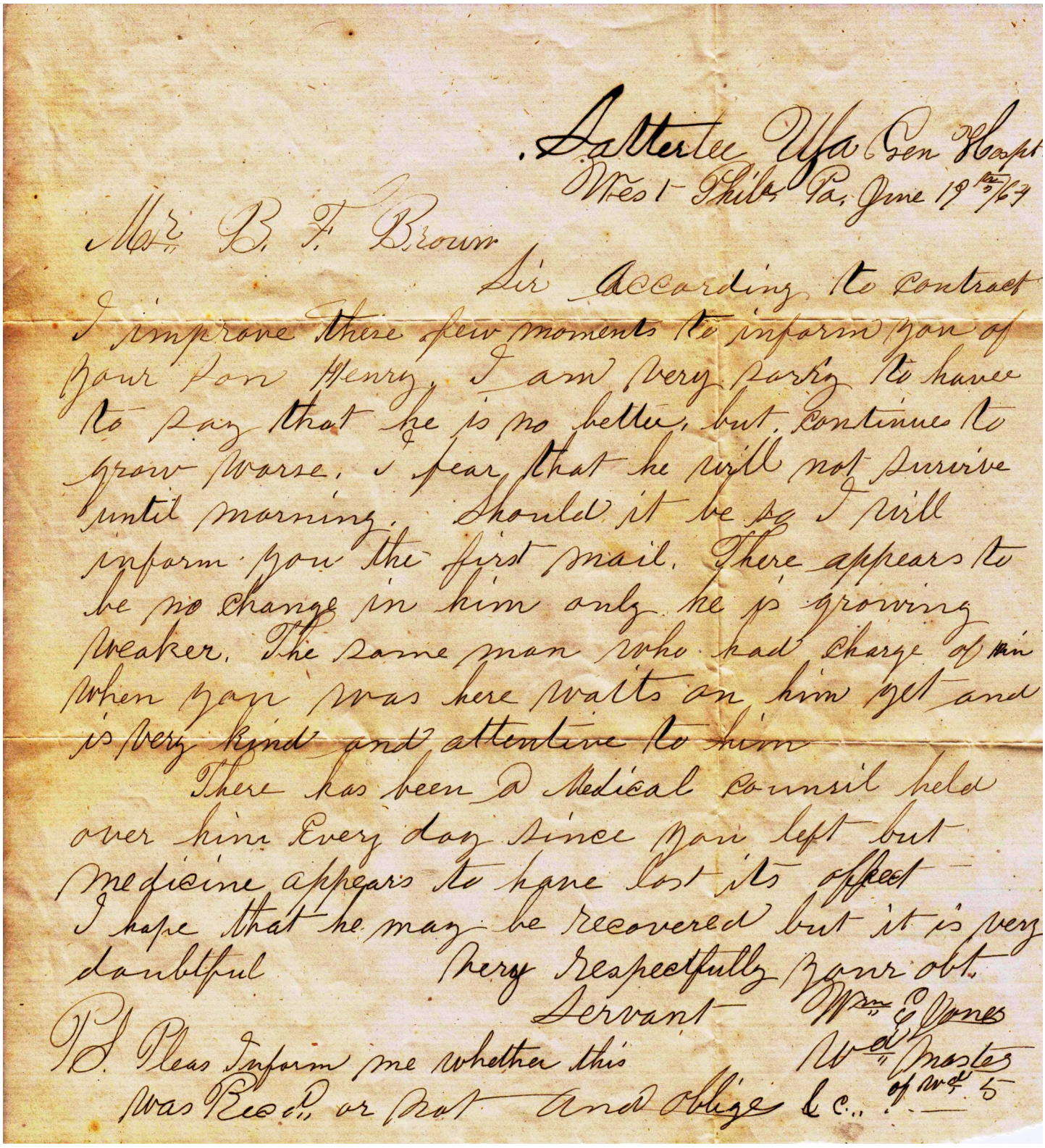
B F Brown

Adaline you see what father has wrote there is no hope now probaly he will be brought home in a few days you had better not come home tonight if you are to tired if grandmother dont come to night I will let you know in the

June 12, 1864 (1864.06.12) Page 1, Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA



June 12, 1864 (1864.06.12) Envelope, Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA



Satterlee USA Gen Hospt
West Phila Pa June 19th 64

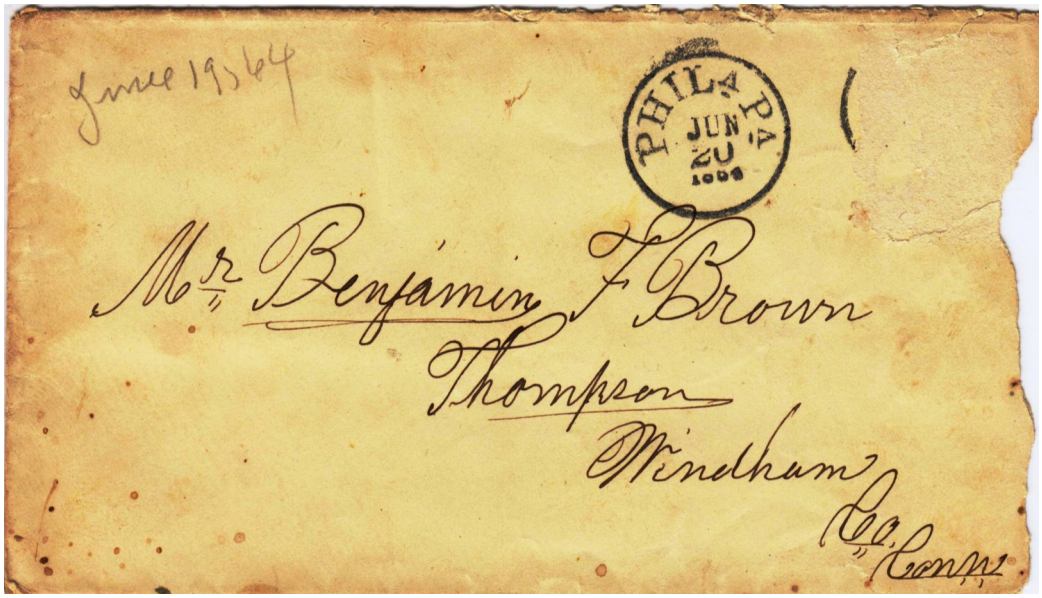
Mr B F Brown

Sir According to Contract I improve these few moments to inform you of your Son Henry, I am very sorry to have to say that he is no better, but Continues to grow worse, I fear that he will not survive until morning. Should it be so I will inform you the first mail. There appears to be no change in him only he is growing weaker. The same man who had charge of him when you was here waits on him yet and is very kind and attentive to him

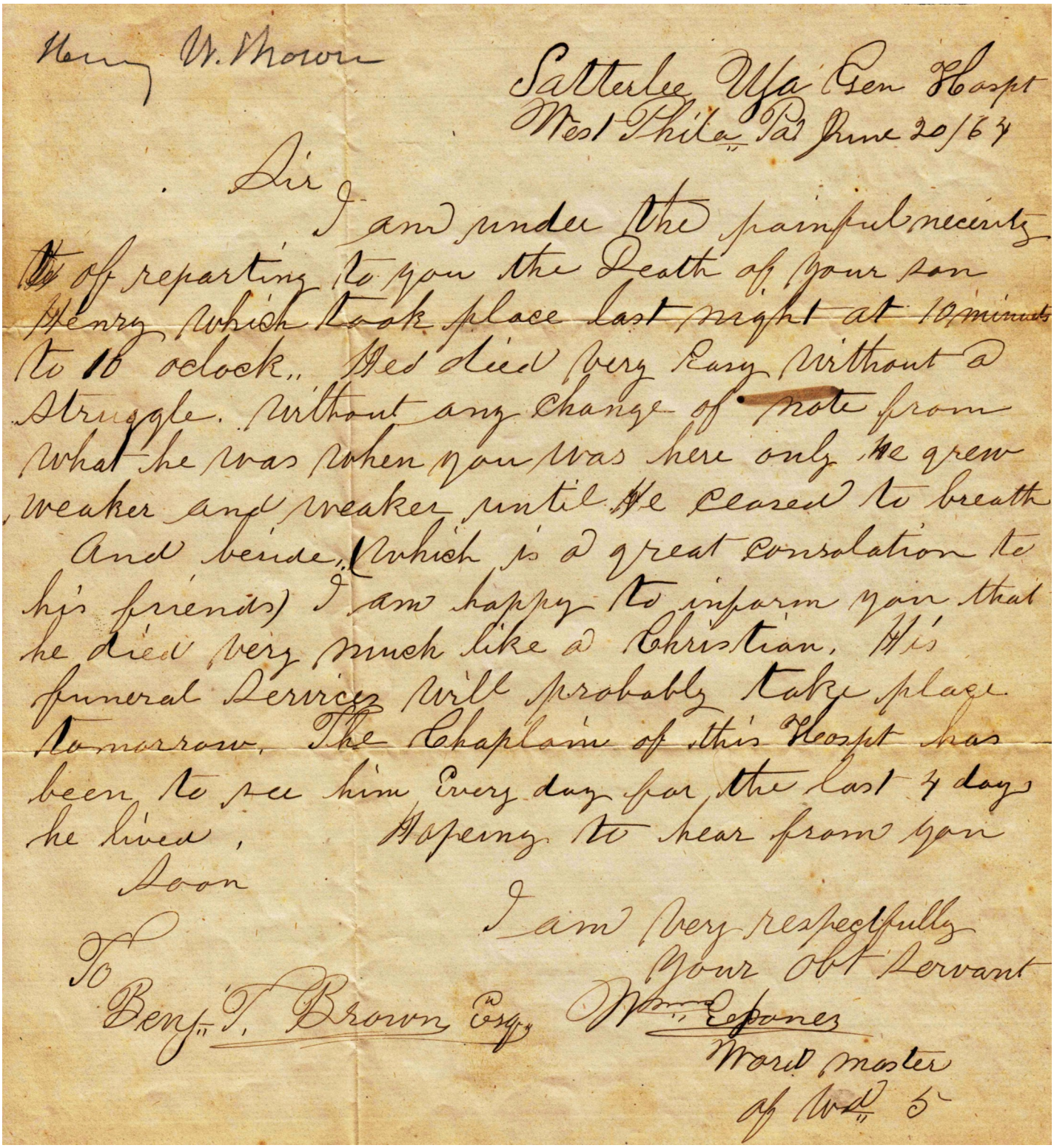
There has been a Medical Counsil held over him Every day since you left but Medicine appears to have lost its effect I hope that he may be recovered but it is very doubtful Very Respectfully Your obt. Servant Wm E Jones Ward Master of Ward 5

P.S. Pleas Inform me whether this was Rec'd or Not And oblige &c.,

June 19, 1864 (1864.06.19) Page 1, Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, PA



June 19, 1864 (1864.06.19) Envelope, Satterlee Hospital, Washington



Henry W. Brown

Satterlee USA Gen Hospt
West Phila Pa June 20/64

Sir

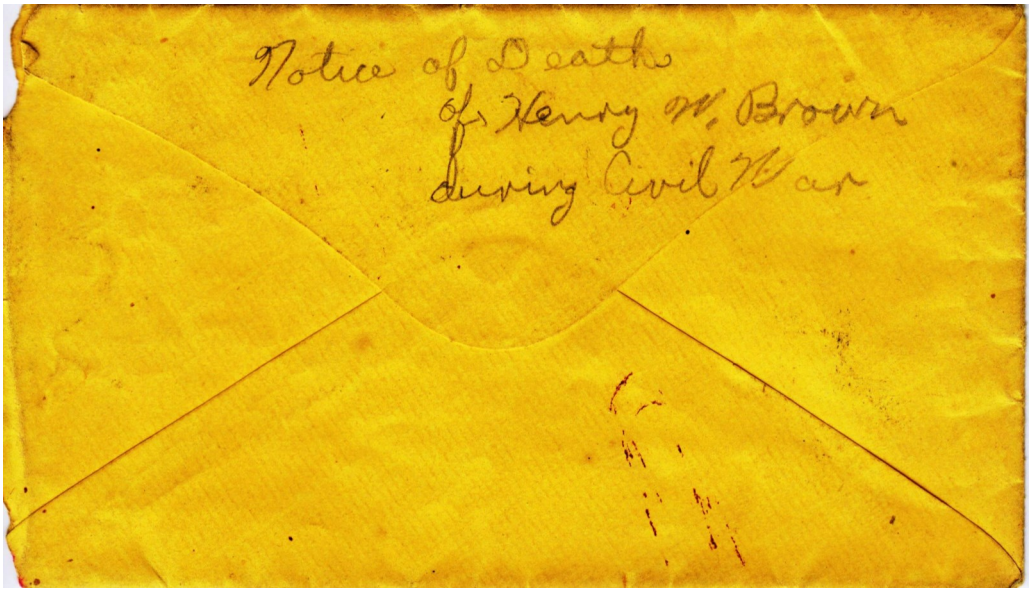
I am under the painful necessity of reporting to you the Death of your son Henry which took place last night at 10 minutes to 10 oclock. He died very Easy without a Struggle. without any change of note from what he was when you was here only he grew weaker and weaker until he ceased to breath And beside, (which is a great consolation to his friends) I am happy to inform you that he died very much like a Christian. His funeral Services will probably take plage tomorrow. The Chaplain of this Hospt has been to see him Every day for the last 4 days he lived, Hopeing to hear from you Soon

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Wm Epones
Ward master
of Ward 5

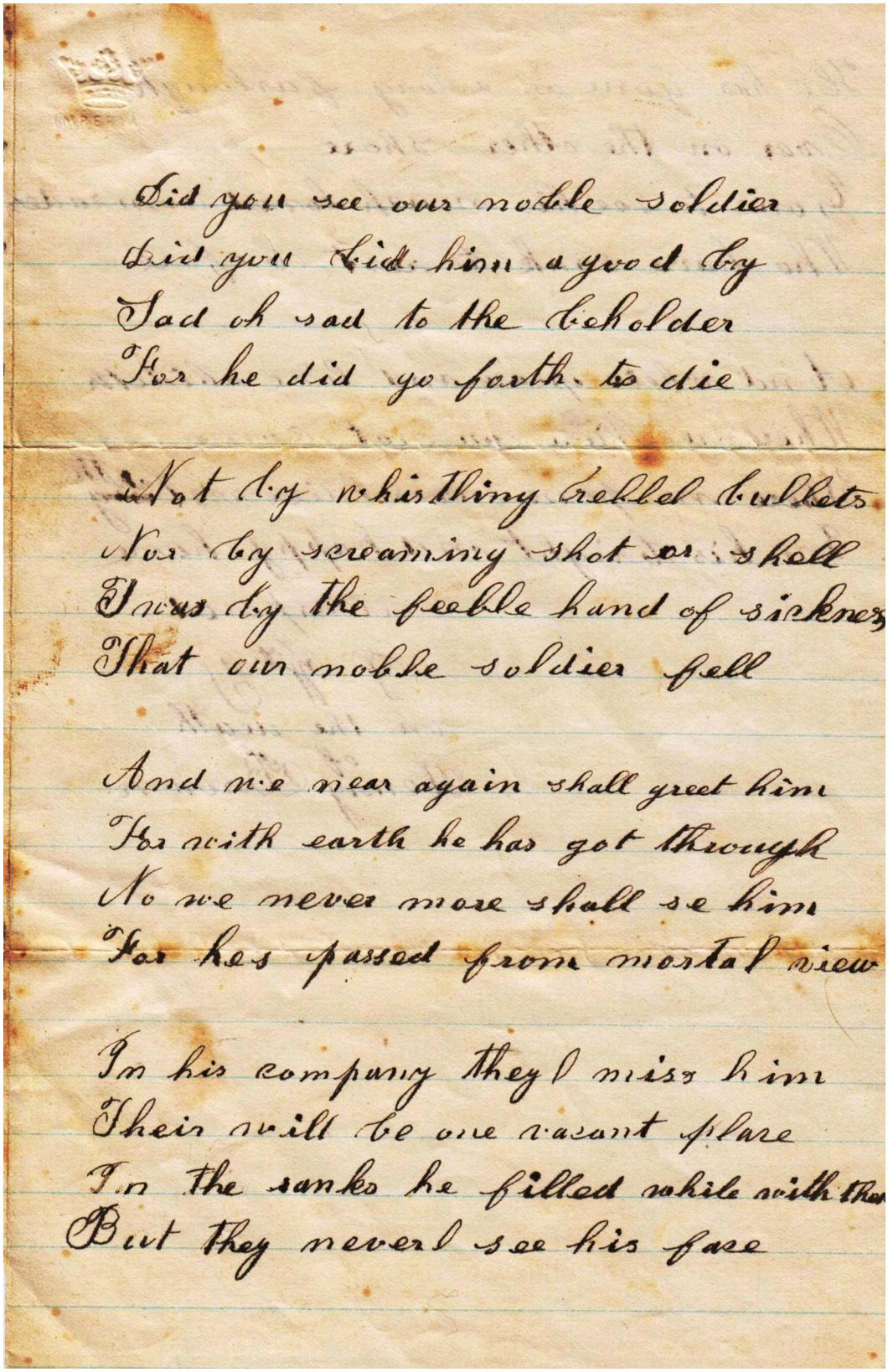
To
Benj. T. Brown Esq

June 20, 1864 (1864.06.20) Page 1 , Satterlee Hospital. Philadelphia, PA





June 20, 1864 (1864.06.20) Envelope, Satterlee Hospital, Washington



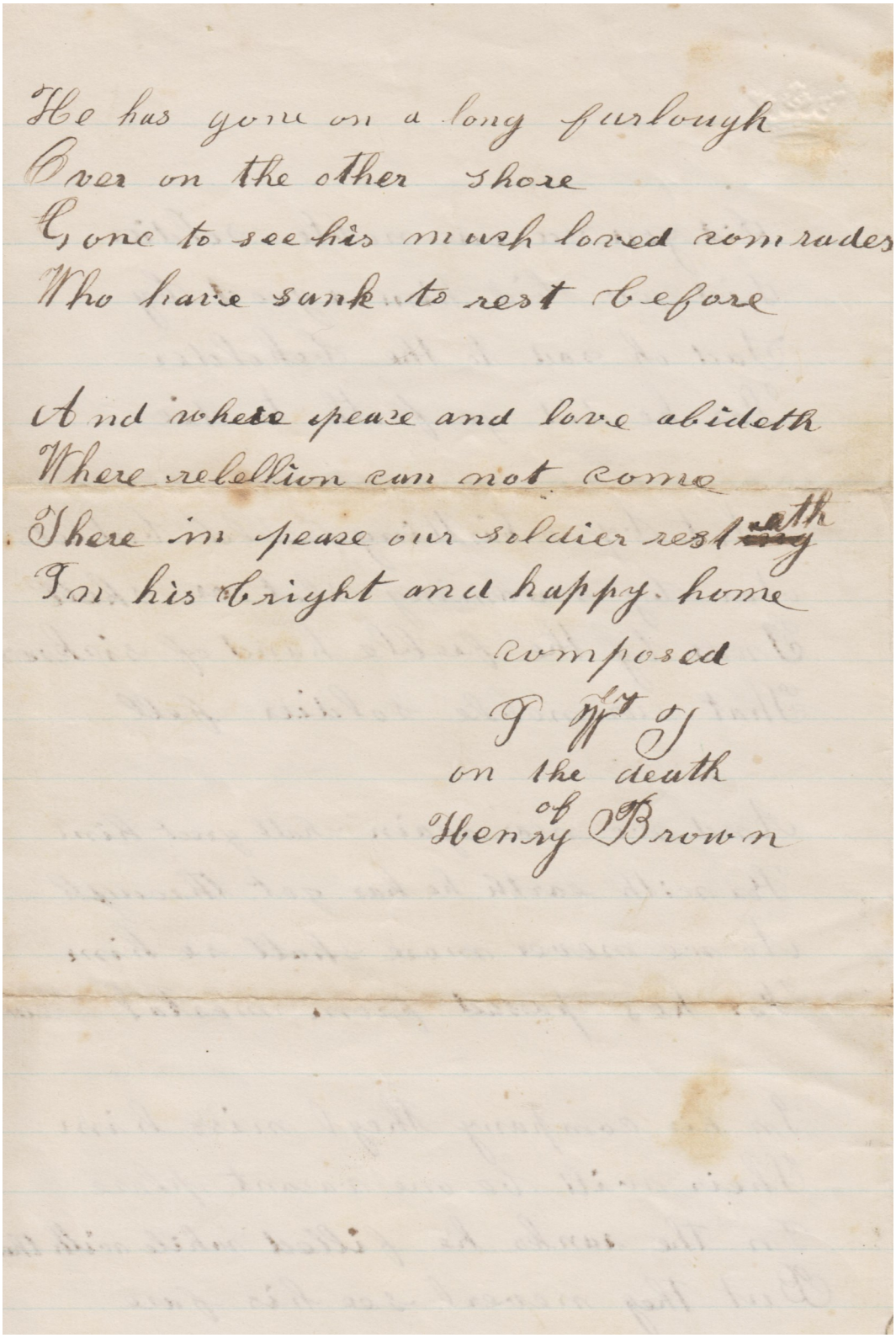
Did you see our noble soldier
Did you bid him a good by
Sad oh sad to the beholder
For he did go forth to die

Not by whistling rebbel bullets
Nor by screaming shot or shell
It was by the feeble hand of sickness
That our noble soldier fell

And we near again shall greet him
For with earth he has got through
No we never more shall se him
For hes passed from mortal view

In his company they'l miss him
Their will be one vacant place
In the ranks he filled while with them
But they never'l see his face

June 21, 1864 (1864.06.21) Page 2, Satterlee Hospital, Washington

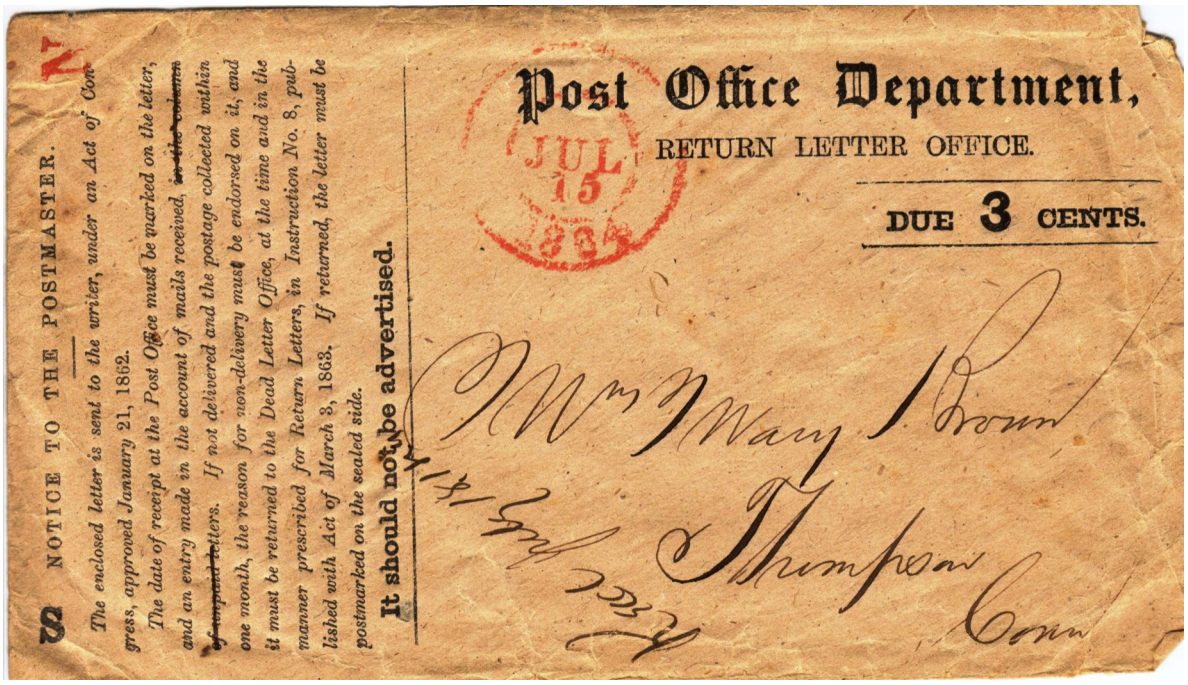


He has gone on a long furlough
Over on the other shore
Gone to see his much loved comrades
Who have sank to rest before

And where peace and love abideth
Where rebellion can not come
There in peace our soldier rests ~~only~~ with
In his bright and happy home

composed
J W J
on the death
of
Henry Brown

June 21, 1864 (1864.06.21) Page 2, Satterlee Hospital, Washington



July 15, 1864 (1864.07.15) Envelope



Envelopen Unknown Date



Envelope, Annapolis, MD, Dates Unknown



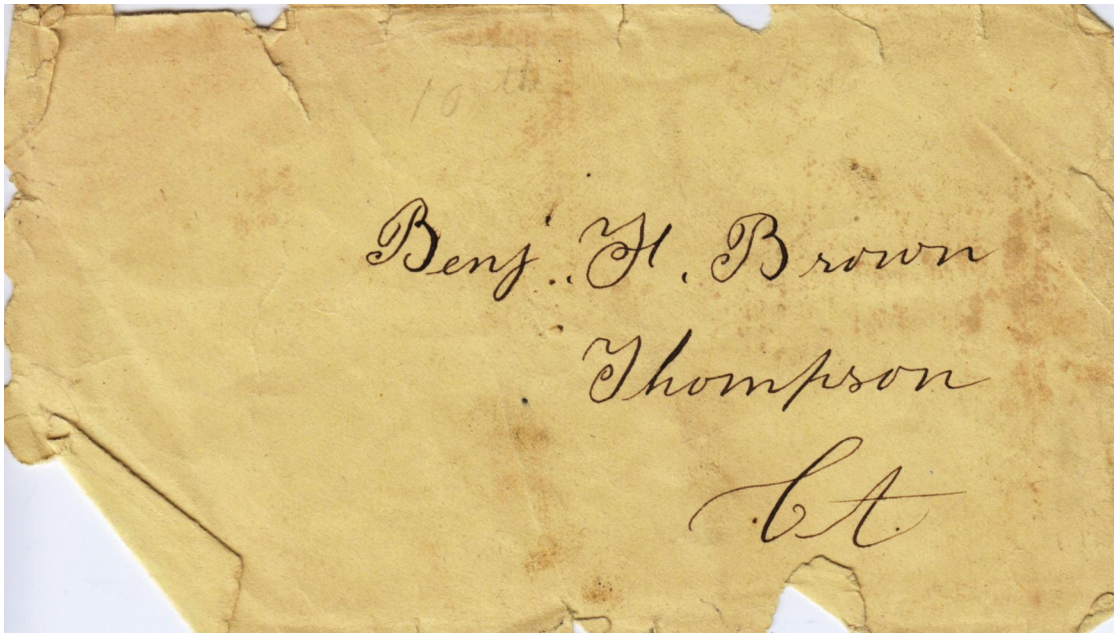
November 11, 1862 (1862.11.15) Envelope Post Marked New York



No Date, Annapolis, MD



No Date, Falmouth, VA



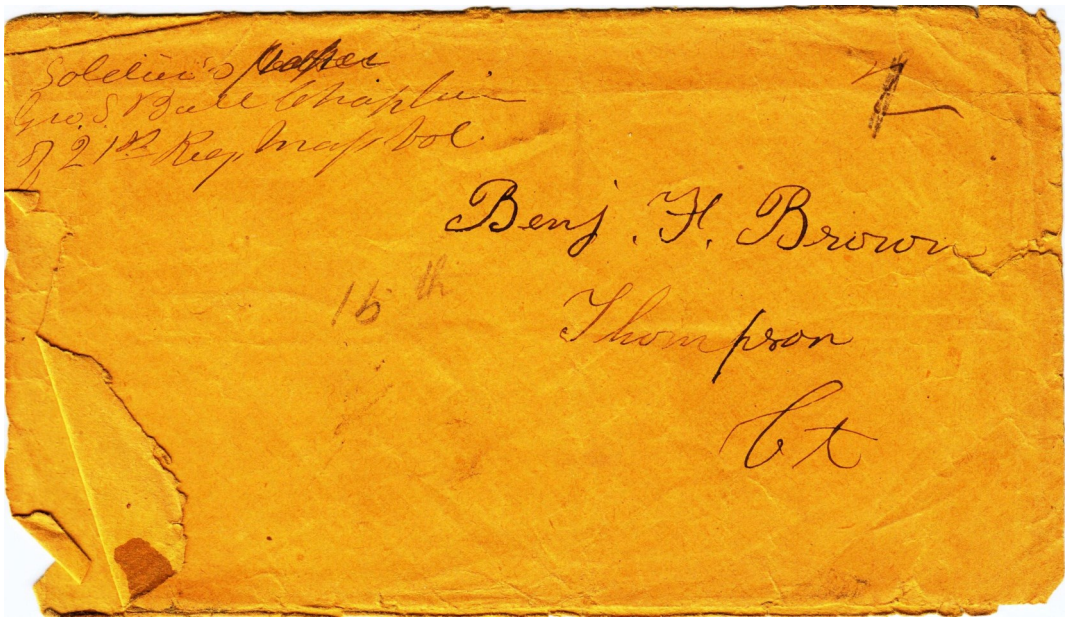
No Date



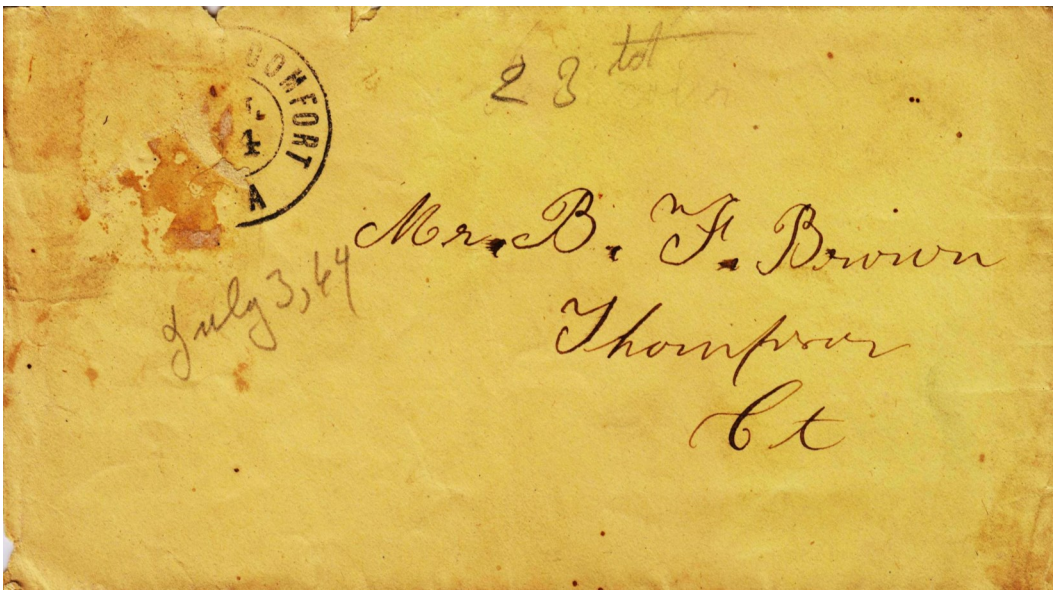
No Date, Washington



December 8, 1864 (1863.12.08) Envelope, Washington



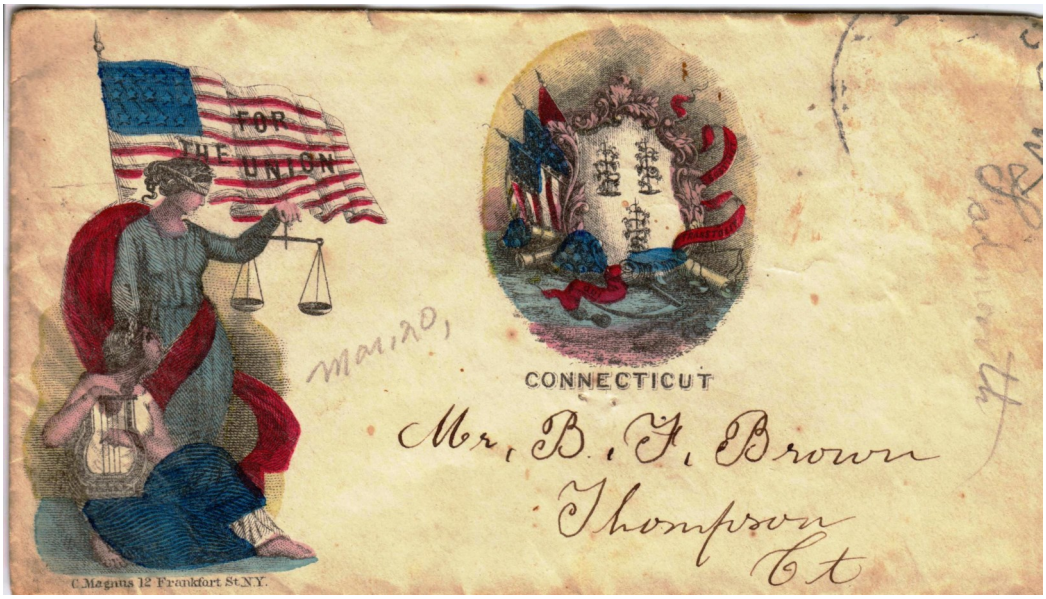
No Date From George S. Ballard



No Date, Marked July 3, 1864



No Date



No Date, with CT Seal, Thompson, CT



No Date, New York



Year Unknown, October 30, Army of Potomac